

To limit one's consumption of *maxiao* to Ghost Street would be to miss out on a world of other possibilities.

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To facilitate the need for new urban land, large parcels of farmland are broken up in a piecemeal fashion.

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"I knew that I would still be very childish, even when I'm in my 60s ... I've always felt that I'm a child."

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China Sets Its Sights on First Asian Cup



"Beibei" (top right), official mascot for the Asian Cup, joins the rehearsal Wednesday for tomorrow's opening ceremony at Workers' Stadium in Beijing.

Xinhua Photos

By Hou Mingxin

Playing host to Asia's own version of Euro 2004 or Copa America, China hopes to go as far as it can during the three-week tournament starting Saturday.

Sixteen teams from around Asia are divided into four groups, playing round-robin matches in Beijing, Jinan (Shandong Province), Chongqing and Chengdu (Sichuan Province).

To make it into the final on August 7, China needs to advance from Group A in Beijing, beat its quarter-final and semifinal opponents.

With a relatively lowly ranking under the FIFA system, China has stopped short of declaring outright its target of winning the country's first ever Asian championship.

But aware that a runner-up finish would only be a repeat of the team's best record, China's head coach, Dutchman Arie Haan, is naturally looking beyond the mark.

Reports say he is hiding his hope for the title and a personal preference for South Korea as the team to face in the semifinal or final.

China has yet to beat South Korea, something even lower-ranked Vietnam has added to their record book.

The Dutch manager now wants to boost the team's chances of qualifying for the German World Cup in 2006 by achieving the two coveted goals of beating the Koreans and winning the Asian Cup title at home.

By Wei Lixin / Qiao Ying

"Staff feel they are treated as machines, with no maintenance. We would respectfully remind our employers of the frequently repeated maxim - 'Our people are our assets.' If the compensation level remains at the lowest level in the industry, we regret to say that we will have no choice but to consider other career opportunities."

So concludes a letter to the management signed by senior staff members of PricewaterhouseCoopers' (PWC) Beijing office on June 28, seeking payment for working overtime.

Yesterday, *Beijing Today* learned that management had agreed to pay staff for working overtime, effective immediately, while at the same time, cancelling the annual bonus paid to all staff members.

PricewaterhouseCoopers is one of the world's largest auditing firms, employing more than 120,000 people worldwide. With a reported net revenue of US \$14.7 billion in 2003, it includes on its books 82 percent of the Fortune Global 500 companies.

According to a report in last Saturday's *21st Century Economic Report*, a go-slow by middle-level and senior staff of PWC's Beijing office has been in effect since the letter calling for payment for overtime was delivered.

"That is an exaggeration," an employee told *Beijing Today* at PWC's China World Trade Cen-

Under Paid for Overtime

ter office on Tuesday. The employee, who declined to give her name, said that while some senior staff were "resisting" working overtime, there was no collective go-slow underway. "Most of us are still working cautiously and conscientiously, just as before," she said. That certainly looked to be the case, at 7:30 pm, there were still many people working busily in the office.

"I have been working in a team with several senior staff these days, and they tell me that management are aware of their requirements, and that they are waiting for a response before taking any further action," a PWC trainee said to *Beijing Today*. "Senior staff in Shenzhen and Shanghai have refused to work overtime lately, but there has been no such action at the Beijing office," she added.

Negotiation

Whether or not rumors about the go-slow are accurate, the dissatisfaction felt by senior staff is certainly genuine. In the letter, staff described their salary as being substantially below their expectations, especially when compared with that of staff working at other foreign firms.

"The monthly basic salary of senior level staff at KPMG is several times higher than our basic salary, and they are compensated for overtime. In addition, their travel allowance is 50 percent higher than what PWC offers."

Management replied promptly to the letter, calling a meeting with staff on July 1 at the Kerry Center. Some 100 PWC employ-

ees attended the meeting, most of them senior staff. Six partners, expatriate and local, attended and listened to the complaints. No substantive agreement was made during the meeting, but July 8 was set as a deadline for a definitive response.

On July 9, one day after the deadline, management selected three senior staff members from each team (there are six or seven teams at PWC, focusing on different industry sectors) as representatives for consultations. The same day, staff received a notice from the partners stating that the consultations would continue over the following two to three weeks.

Most staff at the Beijing office accepted the delay and agreed to wait. "We can't just give up our unfinished work and leave after 6 pm, if the seniors do that, his or her colleagues will have to undertake a greater responsibility and workload. They are not at fault, nor are the clients. It is not that we dare not refuse to work overtime, it is a question of responsibility!" One staff member told *Beijing Today*.

Pay and Pain

Overtime is the key bone of contention for middle level and senior staff members at PWC's Beijing office. The lowest ranking staff are paid overtime after accruing 120 hours. The first 120 overtime hours are converted to a 15-day vacation. Middle level and senior employees are simply not paid overtime, regardless of how many hours they work, even during the busiest period. They do receive an annual bonus, for

Labor Unions in Beijing

Around 100 labor unions have been established in the Beijing offices of overseas companies since April 1995, however due to a lack of independence, these unions rarely function effectively.

The Union of Confederation Unions in Foreign Companies, founded in 2000, works to establish an equitable communication system between staff and management, and functions by signing collective contracts with companies.

Labor Law

According to the Formulation of Working Time, employees should work eight hours per day and forty hours per week.

Legal overtime should be paid at a rate not less than 1.5 times the normal payment. If employees are required to work weekends and are not given time off in lieu, these extra hours should be paid at a rate not less than twice the normal payment. For legal holidays, these hours should be paid at a rate not less than three times the normal payment.

middle level staff this is around 35,000 yuan on average, but can be as high as 50,000 yuan, but this is not generally regarded as commensurate with the many hours of extra work performed.

In fact, PWC staff are not alone in feeling somewhat exploited. "We hand in the timesheet every two weeks, listing basic working hours and overtime. Generally speaking, everyone works overtime almost every day. The standard working week is 40 hours, but it's quite common for an auditor to work over 80 overtime hours in two weeks, in the peak season, maybe 100 or even more," an employee of KPMG Beijing told *Beijing Today*.

"And guess what, for the first 10 hours overtime every month, we don't get paid! We have worked with our foreign clients in a team, but we seldom find that they work as many hours overtime as us, we often work around the clock in order to meet the deadline!" She added.

Several PWC employees maintain that overtime without pay is illegal exploitation of staff. "It is unfair to convert eight overtime hours into one day of vacation. If you ask my opinion, I will say that two hours overtime during legal festivals or national holidays should be compensated by one day off," a middle level staff member said.

"As well as contravening the Labor Law, such kind of overtime policy is deeply hurtful to the feelings of the staff. It shows disrespect for our hard work," another employee said. "We have no idea how to reasonably protect our interests."

We have been talking about setting up a labor union, I feel it is necessary to build such an organization, not only in PWC, but in all foreign companies in China. The question is, how to go about founding such a union?"

Expert's voice

Liu Qing, a well-known human resources expert says such communication between employee and employer on issues of salary and working conditions is both normal and reasonable. In an interview with *Beijing Today* Wednesday, Liu pointed out that in many countries, labor unions play a vital role in representing the interests of employees, as well as acting as a bridge between labor and management.

In China however, such channels have not been well established and labor unions are not as effective as they should be. Furthermore, according to tradi-

tional Chinese belief, bosses and employees are of unequal status, hence employees tend to simply complain, rather than communicate with management directly to resolve such issues.

This phenomenon reflects the fact that the Chinese human resources market remains immature and Chinese employees have a poor understanding of market regulation. Chinese people still largely refuse to accept this viewpoint, which is very different from the idea of a planned economy. A more deeply rooted reason lies in a widespread pessimism about the future under an imperfect welfare system.

Liu expressed the belief that this incident showed that the PWC employees were making efforts to protect their legal rights and interests through peaceful means, and such actions should be encouraged, he said. The incident indicates that these employees are excellent, capable and confident, since they have recognized the necessity for open management and their own value.

At the same time, employers in China should recognize the importance of communication with staff on such vital issues as payment and welfare.

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printed free of charge. Email your personal classifieds (in English and Chinese) to info@ynet.com. Personal classifieds should conform to relevant laws and regulations.

State Owned Land in Different Locations Auctioned Together

By Su Wei

Two lots of land were auctioned for 338 million yuan and 28 million yuan respectively for the right of being used on the opening day of the First China City Land Operation Expo, in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, earlier this week.

The two lots were both around 100,000 square meters, one in the commercial center of Taizhou, Zhejiang Province, and the other in Zhangye, Gansu Province.

The two purchasers, Zhejiang Fangyuan Construction and Hebei Zhiye, told Shenzhen media that they will use the land for real estate development and are confident of obtaining high returns.

Fan Jun, general secretary of the Expo Committee, said the auction was the result of a decision by the Ministry of Land and Resources requiring all such land to be transferred publicly, either through auction or public bidding.

“The auction not only speeds up the pace of land being managed and operated in a way consistent with a market economy, enabling the realization of the maximization of land value, but also sets up an ordered platform for the openness and fairness in land trading, ensuring a better land resource allocation at a national-wide level,” Fan told *Beijing Today*. “The only pity is that some local governments are over concerned with the price and profit made through the

auction and hesitate to participate.”

“However, it is a trend that land in different areas be auctioned together, especially when the demand from the developers is rising,” he added. “For developers it is not merely a fashion to purchase land in another area. Instead it is a demand driven by profit seeking to meet capital flows and has been treated as a long-term market strategy.” Fan says the committee plans to hold such auctions every year.



Mayor of Beijing and a BOCOG executive president Wang Qishan, Minister of the State General Administration of Sport Yuan Weimin, Vice Premier Hui Liangyu, BOCOG president Liu Qi, Vice President of the International Paralympic Committee Francois Terranova, and President of the China Disabled Persons' Federation Deng Pufang.

Xinhua Photo

2008 Paralympic Games Emblem Unveiled

The emblem for the 2008 Beijing Paralympic Games – a character used in classical Chinese, was unveiled in Beijing on Monday.

The ceremony was attended by Vice Premier Hui Liangyu, Liu Qi, president of the organizing committee of the 2008 Olympic Games and Wang Qishan, mayor of Beijing.

The red, blue and green logo, entitled Heaven, Earth

and Human, is based on the Chinese character *zhi*, which comprises three strokes representing the title.

It also includes the logo of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and the English words “Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games.”

The ceremony doubled as an occasion to celebrate the third anniversary of the Chinese capital's successful bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games. (Xinhua)

Talent Pool Shrinking

By Su Wei

A fall in the number of management, science and technology graduates in central enterprises has been acknowledged by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration of the State Council (SASAC) as a factor hindering the deepening of reforms in central enterprises, said Li Yizhong, party secretary and vice chairman of SASAC, in a report released by SASAC last weekend.

The report says more than 70,000 staff in 53 large-scale key central enterprises have quit their jobs since 1998, over 10 percent of these enterprises' management staff, equivalent to 31 percent of the university graduates who joined in these enterprises during this period.

“Some central enterprises have become a human resource tank for international and joint venture companies,” Li pointed out in his report. Besides creating a pleasant working and policy-making environment, he suggests the establishment of a sound salary incentive system to maintain and attract the talents needed by these enterprises. “We should not only focus on the long-term salary incentive system but also on the short-term salary allocation system, both of which in turn will form a strong base for us to establish an effective human resource management system in three years,” he added.

He also states in the report that the creation of a special Talent Awarding Fund is under consideration. “Talent who make significant contributions to the reform and development of central enterprises should be given honorable titles. In this way their work will be recognized and respected by the whole society,” he said.

Currently there are 192 central enterprises in China under the direct control of SASAC, all of which are of vital importance to the national economy and the people's livelihood. Last year, the total asset volume of these enterprises reached 8.32 trillion yuan; the total tax paid was 356.3 billion yuan, over 44 percent of that from the total state-owned enterprise; and the profit realized was more than 300 billion yuan, around 60 percent of that made by all the state-owned enterprises.

New Promotion Method for SOE Leaders

By Chu Meng

Former vice director-general of Beijing Urban Construction Group Xu Jianyun was appointed director-general of the group Monday. Xu's promotion, the first of a top leader of a state-owned enterprise based on competition, marks a reform in the appointment of top management staff in SOEs.

According to the employment contract, Xu will work for a three-year term with the first year as probation period. For a renewal of his employment term, he must pass ten checking indexes annually, six of which are economic-related, such as the rate of the state-owned assets increment and the average increase rate of sales staff.

“Administration system reform of state-owned enterprises' top leaders will face four major changes, such as transforming the employment body from the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission to the board of enterprises themselves, replacing direct appointment by the government with economic indexes and self-competitiveness, and so on,” said Zhang Fengchao, vice director of the commission in an announcement Monday.

“Four new administrative policies are under hot discussion and preparation by the commission and due functional department of our government, which aim at modernizing the current appointment system,” Zhang added.

City Environment Ranking Published

By Zhang Bo

The State Environmental Protection Administration publicized its city environment ranking for 2003 Monday.

According to the report, Haikou, Zhuhai and Guilin rank highest for environment quality, while Nantong, Lianyungang and Shenyang get top marks for pollution control. The cities with the lowest marks for air quality are Linfen, Shijiazhuang and Luoyang.

Currently in China, 668 cities accommodate 36.1 percent of the overall population, contributing 70 and 80 percent of GDP and tax revenue respectively. The environment report covers 47

key cities, including capital cities, municipalities, key coastal cities, cities within special economic zones and tourist cities.

“Under the background of rapid economic growth, the growth rate of environment pollution was less than that of the industrial added value in 2003 for the 47 cities,” said an official from the State Environmental Protection Administration at Monday's press conference.

A total of 157 enterprises from Beijing, including Beijing Mobile and China Youth Travel Service, were listed on the report for breaking environment laws in 2003.

Mayor Quality Prize Debuts in Shenzhen

By Jiang Lin

Applications for the Shenzhen Mayor Quality Prize, the first such prize in the name of a city mayor in China, closed yesterday, Shenzhen Quality and Technology Supervision Bureau director Zhang Shiming told *Beijing Today* Monday.

With an award of 500,000 yuan for each winner, the prize will encourage enterprises and organizations to improve management and increase achievements, Zhang said.

Applicants should be independent corporations in agriculture, manufacturing, service industry, or non-governmental organizations

providing social services.

The winners should possess excellent management practices, a popular reputation and have a positive influence on society and an advanced position in its field.

Applicants are appraised according to strict international standards, covering such aspects as leadership, strategy and management.

“Different industries will have different appraisal standards, but only those that achieve the highest scores can win the prize,” said Wang, director of the bureau's Quality Department, who declined to give his full name.

Public Security Review

Beijing police's 110 emergency hotline received seven percent fewer calls this week than in the preceding week, and 197 criminal suspects have been apprehended after investigation.

Break-ins mostly occurred at Wangsiying, Nanhu and Panjiayuan in Chaoyang, Donghuamen in Dongcheng, Taipingqiao and Liuliqiao in Fengtai, as well as Yongdinglu, Haidianzhen, Tiancun and Qinghe in Haidian late at night and during the day, while street robberies occurred most frequently at Datun and Pingfang in Chaoyang, Malianwa and Qinghe in Haidian and Changqiao in Xicheng in the day time.

Jianwai, Hepingjie, Maizidian and Xiangheyuan in Chaoyang, Yuegezhuang in Fengtai, as well as Haidianzhen and Sijiqing in Haidian were the most common places for auto-related crimes to take place, mainly at night and in the early morning.

Drowning accidents have become the police's key target this week. From May 1 to July 6, 26 people were reported drowned, most of them immigrated workers and students from primary and secondary schools.

(Information from Beijing Public Security Bureau)

HK and Mainland Sign Higher Education Agreement

By Su Wei

The Chinese mainland and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region signed a memorandum on recognizing each others higher education degrees in Beijing Sunday.

The memorandum, signed by China's minister of education, Zhou Ji, and Hong Kong's secretary of education and manpower, Arthur Li Kwok-cheung, says that students from the mainland with appropriate qualifications can study for a masters degree or doctorate in Hong Kong universities, and Hong Kong university students are accorded the same rights at select mainland universities.

According to the ministry, the agreement reflects the growing co-operation and exchanges in education between the two sides, and encourages universities from the mainland and Hong Kong to enhance training by exploiting the advantages of the other.

New Policy Launched on the Forex Transactions

By Zhang Bo

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) publicized a circular Monday on administering foreign exchange sales and payments in non-trade transactions by multinational corporations, in an attempt to simplify procedures, standardize administration and boost the development of China's foreign related economy.

Based on the desirable policy effects made for a pilot scheme in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen from last July and the needs arising from business development of multinational corporations, SAFE will implement the policy nationwide to further establish a fair, favorable and relaxed management environment.

According to the circular, eligible multinational corporations and their related companies in China can apply to local foreign exchange administrations for the non-trade transactions with a written application and related materials.

The circular stipulates that according to related regulations, the new policy can apply to multinational corporations' advancement for wages of foreign employees, stipends, insurance payments, overseas travel cost and other management costs.

Taxis Due for Replacement

By Chu Meng

In accordance with administrative regulations issued on July 1, Beijing has halted the issuing of taxi licences and local taxi companies can make separate decisions to scrap too-old taxis by the end of this year, the Beijing Transportation Administration Bureau told Xinhua last Sunday.

The regulations prescribe that only cars that attain Euro II emission standard and have qualified air-conditioning systems cannot to be scraped by year-end.

“More than 2,000 taxis had ended service by the end of last week. And according to the newly issued regulations, this number will increase to 15 to 20 thousand. Therefore there is a need for haste,” an employee from the Beijing Taxi Association who declined to give her name told *Beijing Today* Tuesday. “The regulations state that replacements should be based strictly upon the fixed total current number.”

To date, there are upwards of 63,000 taxis on the streets, including about 35,000 Xiali, 25,000 Fukang and Jetta, as well as a small number of first-class vehicles. The bureau said within this year they would put around 15 to 20 thousand new cars into service in order to replace the overdue ones still in use.

Get in, Swipe and Go

By Su Wei

Paying for a taxi became easier last Friday when 12,000 local taxis from six taxi companies started accepting smart cards, as well as cash.

All participating taxis display a logo saying “Welcome to Use the Beijing Municipal Administration and Communication Card” in the front right window.

Wang Lianqi, general manager of Beijing Municipal Administration and Communication Cards told media that price calculators installed in these taxis have all passed accuracy tests and are error free. “Drivers of these taxis may not refuse any card-holder passengers, nor refuse to check their remaining credit prior to or after payment,” an employee from the customer service department of the company told *Beijing Today*.

Cards can be purchased and recharged in all the 500 outlets authorized by the company, including post offices and branches of the Agricultural Bank.

According to the card company, by the end of this year, half of Beijing's 60,000 taxis will be installed with card readers and before 2006, up to one million such cards will be issued.

Bank of China Named 2008 Olympic Partner

Bank of China (BOC) signed an agreement with the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2008 Olympic Games (BOCOG) to become the official banking partner of the 2008 Olympics on Wednesday.

BOCOG Vice President Jiang Xiaoyu told a press conference that the committee selected BOC as its banking partner after "a thorough investigation and all-round evaluation."

BOC, one of China's four major state-owned commercial banks, will provide financial and other forms of support for the 2008 Olympics and Paralympics, BOCOG, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as the Chinese sports delegations to the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin and the 2008 Summer Olympics.

"It's another important step in the Beijing Olympics' market development. I believe that the cooperation between BOC and BOCOG will play an important role in en-

surging a successful Olympics," Jiang added.

Germany's Volkswagen Group became the 2008 Olympics' automotive partner last month.

Negotiations with potential Olympic partners in other fields are going smoothly, according to Jiang.

BOC's Deputy Governor Hua Qingshan said the bank was honored to be involved in the 2008 Games.

The bank is reportedly gearing up for a stock market listing, aided by a May announcement that it would cut its non-performing loan ratio to below six percent while raising its capital adequacy ratio to above eight percent by year end.

China's State Council has poured a total of \$45 billion of the country's massive foreign currency reserves into the BOC and China Construction Bank to help them improve solvency and raise capital.

(Xinhua)



Wang Wei, BOCOG vice president (left) and Zhang Yanling BOC's deputy governor (right), shake to seal the deal at Wednesday's signing ceremony.

Xinhua Photo



Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Trade Fair Opens

The Pan-Pearl River Delta regional trade fair kicked off in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on Wednesday and closes Saturday.

Projects under discussion at the fair include property and investment, infrastructure and tourism. More than 10,000 people have

already participated in this session of the annual event.

The region encompasses Fujian, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guangdong, Hainan, Sichuan, Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions.

Xinhua Photo

Goldman Sachs Buys Chinese Pharmacy Chain

By Sun Yongjian

International investment banking and management firm Goldman Sachs has invested \$40 million in Shenzhen-based Nep.star Drug Store with the aim of making it China's largest pharmacy chain, the *Private Economic News* reported last Friday.

A Nep.star insider on Tuesday told *Beijing Today*, on condition of anonymity, that since it signed the investment agreement with Goldman Sachs, his company had set targets of earning 4 billion yuan in turnover and expanding to have 2,000 to 2,500

subsidiary stores in the next five years.

The agreement still required approval from China's Ministry of Commerce, he added.

Nep.star has already established cooperative relations with US-based Medicine Shoppe International, while rival Beijing Pharmaceutical Company has formed a partnership with Germany-based Siemens Dematic group.

The domestic pharmaceutical market will be completely opened to foreign investment by December 11 this year, in keeping with China's WTO commitment.

Vehicles Lead Domestic Machinery Industry

By Sun Yongjian

China's vehicle industry has run to the forefront of the domestic machinery manufacturing field, according to the "World's Machinery Manufacturing Top 500" and "China Machinery Manufacturing Top 500" rankings issued on Sunday.

The world list was put out by the World Economic Lab and World Economic Forum, while the China list was compiled and released by two related organizations and industry journal *World Executive Weekly*.

Vehicle makers now stand in the top five places on the "China Machinery Manufacturing 500" list on the basis of rocketing profits that have leapt from 84 billion yuan to

119.1 billion yuan.

That list names China First Automobile, Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp., Dongfeng Automotive Corp., Shanghai Volkswagen and FAW-Volkswagen as China's five leading vehicle manufacturers.

Over 4.45 million vehicles were sold in China in 2003, making the country the world's third largest vehicle market, trailing only the US (12 million) and Japan (eight million).

A total of 43 Chinese companies broke into the top 100 on the "World Machinery Top 500" list, including three vehicle makers - China First Automobile, ranked No. 59, Shanghai Automotive Industry Corp., No. 68, and Dongfeng Automotive, ranked No. 73.

Brewer Nearly Private After Purchase

By Sun Yongjian

Harbin Brewery, China's fourth-largest beer maker, announced Monday at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange (HKSE) that US-based beer giant Anheuser-Busch had purchased a 98.81 percent stake on July 9, bringing the company's total stake up to 99.66 percent.

AB would be obligated to buy the remaining 0.34 percent stake to attain full ownership and then apply to the exchange to give up Harbin's listing, said Deng Yingzhi, the agent of Harbin Brewery's market promotion and publish relations.

Deng told *Beijing Today* Wednesday that the move showed the privatization of Harbin Brewery was nearly complete.

HKSE regulations stipulate that once one shareholder hold an over-90 percent stake in a listed company, other shareholders must sell their shares to the dominant holder at a standard price. At the same time, such companies must give up their positions on the exchange, Deng said.

"Harbin Brewery has leading brands, an experienced and capable management team and a strong position in the Chinese beer industry. This investment in Harbin Brewery reinforces our commitment to China, and is consistent with our stated strategy of investing in leading brewers in growth countries," Patrick Stokes, president and chief executive officer of AB, said at an earlier press conference on June 1.

That day, AB announced a mandatory general offer for Harbin Brewery at a price of HK\$5.58 per share, outshooting a competing offer of HK\$4.30 per share from South Africa-based rival SABMiller by nearly 30 percent. The move brought an end to the two companies' battle for Harbin ownership.

AB has an annual output value of US\$13 billion and is the world's largest beer producer. The Budweiser brand owner holds a 10 percent stake in Tsingtao Brewery, China's biggest beer company, an article in the *21st Century Economic Report* said on Wednesday.

Philips' Partner Affirms China Commitment

By Jiang Lin

A source from Sangfei Ltd., Netherlands-based Philip's only global partner for manufacturing mobile phones, on Thursday denied local media reports that Philips was planning on moving its cell phone production base from China as a result of dropping profits.

Miss Mai, assistant to Sangfei's general manager, told *Beijing Today* that her company's cooperation with Philips was going smoothly and they would continue to produce large quantities of cell phones.

"Philips is likely to move its production base from China in response to bad financial policies and limited profits in the domestic market," the *Beijing News* reported Wednesday.

Mai said that article was based on a previous report in the Hong Kong-based *Wen-wei-po* newspaper that said while Philips' mobile phone output increased last year, the company's profits in the sector dropped due to raised tariffs in other countries and other market changes. "The [*Beijing Times*] report used an out-of-context quote to draw an incorrect conclusion that misled the public," she said.

Kodak Unveils Self-help Film Stations in Capital

By Sun Yongjian

A few local Kodak film stores have been equipped with new machines that allow people to print pictures taken by digital cameras, even little ones installed in fancy mobile phones. The ATM-like machines should soon start turning up in shopping centers, restaurants and other commercial and public locations around the city.

"Eight Kodak film stores have been equipped with the automatic filming stations," Zhang Jing from Kodak's Beijing office told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

Pictures stored in mobile phones can be beamed to the machines using Bluetooth technology and minor adjustments can be made. Prints are available in a range of sizes, come out quickly, and the whole printing process is simple to control thanks to the machines' touch-sensitive liquid crystal screens.

Retail Driving Real Estate Development

By Zhang Jianzhong

In the second quarter, peak season for Beijing's residential leasing and sales market, activity rose significantly, said a report released by Hong Kong-headquartered DTZ Debenham Tie Leung's Beijing office on Tuesday.

The trend of major retail outlets opening near large residential complexes, "is a sign that development of Beijing's real estate market is going well," Sunnie Wu, director of DTZ's retail department, said at the press conference.

Competition for retail space also heated up in the first half of this year led by foreign firms such as US-based Wal-Mart, UK-based B&Q, and French-based Auchan and Carrefour.

Standardization Gets New Face

By Sun Yongjian

Quality Authenticate Co., a subsidiary of China Certification & Inspection Group (CCIC) that focuses on authentication of administrative systems and products and provision of authentication training services, was established on Sunday in Beijing, Xinhuanet reported.

The new firm employs more than 200 technical experts and verifiers nationwide and can provide nationalized services, meaning the application of identical standards, including ISO9001, ISO10041, GB/T28001 and HACCP, and services across the country.

As of June 30, CCIC issued more than 6,000 certificates to more than 5,000 domestic and foreign customers.

Domestic Insurer Backed by US Fund

By Sun Yongjian

Following the overseas listings of giant domestic insurers China Life and Ping An, competitor China Pacific Life's (CPL) has announced plans to attract foreign strategic investment on the road to holding an IPO outside the Chinese mainland.

US-based private equity firm Carlyle Group has agreed to purchase a 25 percent stake in CPL for \$400 million, the UK's *Financial Times* reported July 8.

Carlyle Group boasts 21 fund management companies and \$16 billion in assets and has earned huge profits from \$12.5 billion of global strategic investment. The multinational's China branch opened in Shanghai on April 20.

CPL started down the road to listing in 2000, according to previous company statements.

New Bridge Calls Off Purchase of Minsheng Bank

By Sun Yongjian

Six months of negotiations regarding cooperation between US-based New Bridge Investment Group and China's Minsheng Bank collapsed last Saturday in Shanghai.

Purchase talks ended when Minsheng announced at the Shanghai Stock Exchange that China Coal Energy Group Corporation, one of its shareholders of legal person stocks, decided

to cancel a former agreement to transfer shares to New Bridge, the *Beijing News* reported July 13.

Minsheng, a private shareholding bank listed on the Shanghai stock market, has posted annual profit growth of 40 to 50 percent while maintaining the lowest rate of non-performing loans of any Chinese bank. The bank is expected to be the first domestic A-share company to list in

Hong Kong.

"We're not interested in buying the best international banks, or banks recognized as the best in their markets," Shan Jianwei, who served as the chief negotiator in New Bridge's purchase of Shenzhen Development Bank, was quoted as saying by the *Beijing News* on Tuesday.

Differences between Minsheng's character and New Bridge's in-

vestment style caused the end of negotiations, Zhou Xingzheng, an analyst for South East Securities, told *Beijing Today*.

"New Bridge can't take advantage of its strengths with as solid a bank as Minsheng," Zhou said.

"Minsheng is going to find other strategic investors," a bank executive who requested anonymity told *Beijing Today* Wednesday.

Wal-Mart Tops FORTUNE Global 500 for Third Consecutive Year; China and Other Developing Nations Are Catching Up Fast

New York, July 12 (Business Wire) - *FORTUNE* announced today that Wal-Mart, the Arkansas-based retailer, tops the FORTUNE Global 500 for the third consecutive year. Number two on the list is BP (Britain), which out-ranked American oil company Exxon Mobil for the first time. Rounding out the top ten are No. 3 Exxon Mobil (U.S.); No. 4 Royal Dutch/Shell Group (Britain/Netherlands); No. 5 General Motors (U.S.); No. 6 Ford Motor (U.S.); No. 7 DaimlerChrysler (Germany); No. 8 Toyota Motor (Japan); No. 9 General Electric (U.S.); No. 10 Total (France). The list and accompanying stories appear in the July 26 issue of *FORTUNE*, available on newsstands July 19 and at www.fortune.com on July 12.

The U.S. leads the list with 189 companies, up from 151 ten years ago. Over the same period, the number of Japanese companies dropped from 149 to 82, while the number of Chinese companies rose from three to 15 (up from 11 last year). The newcomers from China include State Grid, the national power company (No. 46); Shanghai Baosteel (No. 372); Hutchison Whampoa (No. 407); and Shanghai Automotive (No. 461). There are 170 European companies on the list (up from 166 last year), and 123 Asian companies (up from 122 last year).

Wal-Mart was No. 1, with revenues of \$263 billion, up 7% from last year. Exxon Mobil was the world's most profitable company in 2003, posting net earnings of \$21.5 billion, almost twice the profits of the previous year. Citigroup was next, with \$17.9 billion in net earnings, up 17% from last year, followed by General Electric, with profits of \$15 billion.

The July 14 issue of American magazine, Ladies' Home Journal, has two covers, although the content is the same. Readers at the newsstand will be able to choose which cover to buy although subscribers who account for 90 percent of sales will be automatically sent the Bush cover, as a courtesy to the sitting President. The readership is currently established at 13 million.

Xinhua photo



DuPont and Teflon Health Risks Stick



Teflon cookware on sale in a Shanghai supermarket. China's annual production capacity is 80 to 100 million units, 60 to 70 per cent of which are sold abroad.

Photo By Photocome

Washington / New York, July 8 (Reuters) - DuPont the second biggest U.S. chemical company, failed for more than 20 years to report potential health risks caused by a key ingredient in the manufacture of Teflon, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said last Thursday.

The Wilmington, Delaware company violated the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) from June 1981 to March 2001 by not reporting dangers associated with perfluorooctanoic acid or C-8, the EPA said.

The chemical is crucial in the process of making the well-known coating used in a wide range of consumer products, including nonstick cookware and stain-resistant carpets. DuPont

found traces of C-8 as early as the 1980s.

Washington, July 13 (newandsentinel.com) - The company contends all products using Teflon made by DuPont are safe for humans and the environment, said Robin Ollis, director of external affairs for the Washington Works Plant.

DuPont denies it failed to meet reporting requirements and that Teflon-coated cookware poses any threat to human health. "What we know is that products manufactured by DuPont do not contain any residual PFOA. It is a processing aid that is used in the manufacture of Teflon coating, but it does not remain in Teflon products manufactured by DuPont," said Ollis.

Analyst's Take:

After receiving the report, the respective Chinese governmental department has decided to test Teflon-related products available in the domestic market.

The Quality Supervision Bureaus in Beijing together with the southern city of Guangzhou are preparing to conduct spot checks of cookware.

Although these products have been available for a long time here in Beijing and some other cities, we have to be aware that China has its own quality standards about food-related chemicals.

- A press officer with the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine in China (Chu Meng)

New Bank Crisis in Russia

Moscow, July 7 (Pravda.ru) According to RBC, hordes of customers of Alpha-Bank have blockaded Moscow branches of the bank. Alpha-Bank ATMs have run out of money, while other banks refuse to deal with Alpha-Bank's accounts.

Also Strana.ru reported that Gута-Bank failed to make payments on its customers' accounts. An announcement on the door of one of Gута-Bank's offices in Moscow stated that "because of the out flow of 10 billion roubles in June and significant increase in payments in July, Gута-bank currently is unable to make current payments".

For a month the Russian Central Bank has denied the allegations of a crisis in inter-bank credit in Russia.

Alpha-Bank accuses its competitors of inventing the problems the bank allegedly encounters. An announcement on Gута-bank's website said that the negotiations between

major bank customers and the Russian Central Bank are in progress. Gута-Bank owners are also in search of solution to the problem.

Analyst's Take:

As President Vladimir Putin's economic adviser said the country's banking industry is in crisis and the government should be blamed.

Alfa-Bank imposed a 10 percent commission on depositors who want to withdraw cash early as authorities fought to prevent a run on the banks and bring calm to the sector.

However, Presidential economic adviser Andrei Illarionov made it clear he disagreed with Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov who tried earlier in the day to calm fears that banks were in trouble. The July 2004 banking crisis, like any other economic crisis, is a result of authorities' actions.

The government and central bank tried to assure depositors,



The chair of the board of directors of bank "Zenit" Alexei Sokolov (L) and the president of the Association of Russian Banks Garegin Tosunyan (R) during a press conference "regarding the situation in the Russian banking sphere."

Photo By Photocome

who had painful memories of a banking collapse six years ago that there would not be a repeat.

It's one of those sectors where there is a lot of credit risk, weak supervision, ownership issues, inter-group lending. But I don't

think that there's going to be a full-blown banking crisis like in 1998 for example.

- Pan Yingli, Dean of East China Normal University's Institute of International Finance (Chu Meng)

UFJ, Mitsubishi Tokyo May Merge, Create Biggest Bank

July 14 (Bloomberg) - UFJ Holdings Inc. said it wants to merge with Mitsubishi Tokyo Financial Group Inc., a combination that would surpass Citigroup Inc. as the world's biggest bank and accelerate Japan's attempts to reduce bad loans.

"UFJ's board agreed this morning to ask Mitsubishi Tokyo to consider a merger," UFJ spokesman Naoki Hirokawa said. Shigemitsu Miki, chairman of Mitsubishi Tokyo's main lending unit, earlier said his group would study "such a request." Combining Japan's second- and fourth-largest lenders would create a bank with 188.7 trillion yen (\$1.7 trillion) assets.

Mitsubishi Tokyo, which

earned a record 561 billion yen in the year ended March 31, would acquire a smaller rival that posted its third consecutive annual loss. Turning around Osaka-based UFJ would boost efforts by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to sustain the nation's longest economic expansion since 1997.

"It's the last piece in the cleanup of the Japanese banking industry," said Philip Schwartz, who helps manage \$1.2 billion at ING Investments LLC in New York. "If anyone was to take over UFJ, then Mitsubishi Tokyo has the financial wherewithal and the experience to cut non-performing loans to pull it off."

Google Files to Be Listed on Nasdaq Exchange

Washington, July 12 (AFP) - Internet search titan Google said it was seeking to trade its shares on the Nasdaq electronic stock exchange, in the company of many other technology giants.

Google, in documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, did not indicate the date or value of its initial public offering (IPO), which was first announced April 29.

The Mountain View, California firm said in an amendment to its registration that it will have

its class A shares quotes on the Nasdaq. Class B shares will be identical but will allow 10 votes for each share.

The trading symbol for the company was not provided.

Pricing of the shares will be handled through an unusual auction system.

The IPO, seen as one of the hottest since the dot-com boom, will be led by Morgan Stanley and Credit Suisse First Boston, is estimated to bring in some 2.7 billion dollars.

Harrah's to Buy Caesars for \$5.2 Billion

Los Angeles, July 14 (Reuters) - Harrah's Entertainment Inc. has agreed to buy rival Caesars Entertainment Inc. for about \$5.2 billion, creating the world's largest casino operator, a source close to the deal said on Wednesday.

Harrah's and Caesars together would have \$8.8 billion in annual revenue and more than 50 casinos, a sizable presence in nearly every major legalized U.S. gambling market, and the Caesar's Palace brand - one of the gaming industry's marquee names.

Harrah's will pay about \$17 for each share of Caesars in a mix of one-third cash and two-thirds stock, according to terms approved by the boards of both companies at meetings on Wednesday evening, the source said.

Harrah's would also assume about \$4.2 billion in debt to take over its bigger rival, by revenue, uniting the two largest U.S. gambling companies. They expect to announce the agreement on Thursday morning, the source said.

A takeover would offer a sound rejoinder to MGM Mirage,



Signs for Harrah's and Caesars Casino Resorts line up along the Strip in Las Vegas, Wednesday. Negotiations are underway as Harrah's Entertainment is attempting to buy rival Caesars Entertainment, making it the largest merger in Casino history. Such a merger would eclipse the recent merger of combined MGM Mirage-Mandalay Resort Group.

AP Photo

which last month made a deal to acquire Mandalay Resort Group for \$4.8 billion.

Morgan Stanley Settles US Gender Bias Suit for 54 Million Dollars

New York, July 12 (AFP) - US securities giant Morgan Stanley settled a sex discrimination lawsuit case for 54 million dollars, just as opening arguments were due to begin in what would have been a landmark trial.

The settlement contained no admission or denial of wrongdoing on the part of the Wall Street firm, which stood accused of passing over senior women employees for promotion and salary increases.

Unveiling details of the settlement, US District Judge Richard Berman said 40 million dollars would go to a claims fund administered by Morgan Stanley. More than 300 women

had joined the class action suit against the company.

Another 12 million dollars will go to Allison Schieffelin, the lead plaintiff and a former convertible bond sales representative, whose complaint to the commission in 1998 that she had been passed over for promotion triggered the investigation of Morgan Stanley.

The final two million dollars will be used to provide anti-discrimination training at Morgan Stanley.

It would have been the first time a Wall Street firm had defended itself in court against a gender bias lawsuit filed by the federal commission.

Murdoch Knocks Dyke off Perch at Top of Guardian Media Power List

Manchester, July 12 (Guardian) - Rupert Murdoch, the owner of four national newspapers and the biggest shareholder in the satellite broadcaster BSkyB, has regained his place at the top of the Guardian's media power list at the expense of the former BBC director-general, Greg Dyke.

Mr Murdoch, who dropped to second place last year, has been reinstated at the top of the Media Guardian 100 ahead of

new entrant Michael Grade, who took over as chairman of the BBC in May.

Mr Dyke's departure from the BBC after the publication of the Hutton report in January precipitated his fall from grace.

He dropped from first place to 89th on the list, which is compiled annually by a panel of leading industry figures. He only remains in the top 100 because of his forthcoming memoirs.

Sudden Storm Tests City's Reflexes



Photo by Photocom

By Dong Nan

The heavens opened last Saturday, deluging Beijing in a sudden, torrential rain that brought down houses, washed out cars and caused injuries and dozens of serious traffic jams. The storm also pushed the city's drainage system to its limits and revealed weaknesses in the municipal emergency response system.

"Lots of water did not drain quickly, not because the sewers were not large enough, but because there were not enough drains and they are not well arranged. It's not a scientific plan," Chen Huai, an urban construction expert, said on CCTV.

An average of 70 millimeters of rain fell in Beijing's urban areas during the brief, violent thunderstorm that started around 4 pm and lasted three hours. The torrent, the heaviest in five years, pounded the city center the hardest, Beijing Water Bureau data indicated.

An electricity pole collapsed under the rain at Tianwaitian market in Xicheng District and two security guards were elec-

trocuted when the power line hit water. Both are in stable condition.

Traffic snarled citywide as water levels rose dangerously high at nearly 100 sites along major roadways including Chang'an Jie, Tiyyuguan Xilu and the South Fourth Ring Road. In some places, like Fuxingmen and Lianhuaqiao, water pooled over 1.5 meters deep, nearly completely submerging cars and forcing commuters to abandon their vehicles and swim to safety.

More than 60 trees toppled, five houses collapsed and nearly 5,000 other one-storey homes around the city were besieged by severe roof leaking or flooding.

Two days later, an even heavier storm ravaged Shanghai, leaving seven people dead and other 20 injured. More than 180 buildings collapsed under the deluge.

"We should improve old and dangerous houses in old districts. As for areas around downtown districts, drainage systems should be improved to deal with the pressure brought by heavy

rain or snow that falls in a short period of time," Bian Lanchu, an urban planning expert from the School of Architecture of Tsinghua University, told Xinhua on Sunday.

Bian is just one of many experts in meteorology, city planning and management, and disaster prevention who have addressed the public through the national media since the storms. Most have agreed that the unexpected damage of the deluges revealed significant weaknesses in urban infrastructure and the inadequacy of China's emergency response system.

"Chinese cities only have separate emergency plans, there is no comprehensive emergency system. So our ability to deal with huge rainstorms is low. Different departments failed to cooperate with each other to deal with the whole thing," Wu Zhenghua, an expert in disaster prevention and reduction, told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Monday, noting that dangerous weak points existed in the emergency response systems of cities

across China.

"Officials should not only pay attention to very visible structures like large plazas and high buildings and neglect more easily-overlooked things like drainage systems," Chen Huai said.

"Since 1980, cities have been expanding very quickly, but a lot of important work including disaster prevention and alleviation and infrastructure construction has not kept up with the pace of urbanization. Development is not balanced in most cities."

Chen added that cities across the country should learn lessons from Beijing and Shanghai's recent poundings and more carefully consider infrastructure in further development.

The Beijing Municipal Meteorological Observatory on Tuesday announced that 20 new weather towers would be erected in Beijing in order to better monitor for dangerous weather such as hail and thunderstorms. Only two such towers currently stand in the city.

Power Towers' Eyesore Days Over?

By Zhou Ying

In order to protect the sanctity and beauty of the landscape of the Summer Palace, three tall iron power supply towers that stand near the park may be ripped down, *Beijing Youth Daily* reported on Monday.

The three towers, all located two kilometers from the World Heritage-listed Summer Palace, can be clearly seen from inside the park.

One tourist from Jilin Province told *Beijing Youth Daily* on Sunday that he was deeply impressed by the park's scenic beauty but disappointed the view was marred by the towers. "They look terrible, just as if someone took a beautiful painting and tore it to shreds," the unnamed tourist said.

Many power lines in the area have already been installed underground, an official from the Beijing Municipal Bureau of Parks told *Beijing Today* Wednesday on condition of anonymity. "The government took everything into consideration when the power grid for the area was being designed, so lines closer to the park have been put underground. The towers were built far from the palace and no one expected they would still be visible."

The official said that no construction was allowed within a two-kilometer radius of the Summer Palace as a protective measure. "Strictly speaking, these towers are not included within the area and don't have much impact on views from the park. However, the Summer Palace is very special, and you could say they ruin the integrity of its surrounding landscape," he admitted.



The three towers can be clearly seen from inside the Summer Palace.

Photo by Wang Zhenlong



'Tree hugger' Tao Siliang

Photo by Photocom

Save Our Trees!

By Zhou Ying

Beijing learned the meaning of "tree hugger" on Sunday morning, when three residents of the Green Spring Town community in Chaoyang donned t-shirts reading "Sons of the forest" and then bound themselves to trees in a small forest near their homes. Their mission was to protest a real estate company's plans to clear and develop the area.

More than 300 people from that community took part in the demonstration and tied yellow ribbons to trees as signs they should be spared the axe.

"I don't know whether our actions will prove effective, but we just want to express our feelings that we will be with the forest!" a Mr. Wang, one of the three people who were roped to trees, told the *Beijing News* on Sunday.

More than 600 trees stand in the 30,000-square-meter space near the Green Spring development, according to the community's website.

On July 7, residents were informed that the area was to be cleared so that developer Beijing Shimao Group could erect a new complex of 29-storey residential and commercial buildings.

"This forest is just across the road from the Olympic Park, and it's filled with wild animals like rabbits, hedgehogs and pheasants. It would be such a shame if it was all cut down," Tao Siliang, one of the organizers of the protest, told *Beijing Today* on Wednesday.

Tao said when he bought his apartment, a salesperson told him the forest would not be cut down and that open spaces in the plot would be the sites of a kindergarten and supermarket.

"Many [Green Spring] residents bought houses here because of the forest. Now we feel we were cheated," he said, adding his family had purchased their home from Beijing Century Longxiang Real Estate Development Co. unaware that the forested land in front of their building belonged to another company.

"We just want to know why this is happening," Tao pleaded.

In a phone interview on Wednesday, Tong Yichuan, manager of Beijing Shimao Group's development department, accused Beijing Century Longxiang salespeople of cheating home buyers because his company had filed its plans to build houses on the forested plot before sales of Green Spring residences began.

Tong said that the protestors did not have the legal right to prevent the company from realizing its plan. "Of course, we would not dare take down the forest without permission. The Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning approved our plan a few months ago," he noted.

Forced Laborers Win Damages in Japan

By Wang Fang

Years of struggle have finally paid off for a group of five elderly Chinese who were forced into labor by the Japanese army during World War Two.

Shao Yicheng, 79, flew back to Beijing from Japan on Monday evening after representing the other plaintiffs before the High Court of Hiroshima Prefecture. He could not contain his happiness as he greeted a crowd that assembled at Capital International Airport.

On July 9, the court ruled that damages should be paid to the men, who were forced to work at a construction site in Hiroshima Prefecture during the war.

"When we heard the ruling, we, our Japanese lawyers and our supporters all shed tears," Shao told reporters at the airport.

The ruling overturned a lower court's July 2002 rejection of their lawsuit filed in 1998 against Tokyo-based Nishimatsu Construction Co. on grounds that the standard 10-year statute of limitation on cases had long since expired.

Judge Satoshi Suzuki pointed out in the ruling that Nishimatsu's argument ran counter to the course of justice and awarded the plaintiffs the full 27.5 million yen they had demanded. The construction company immediately filed an appeal to take the matter to Japan's Supreme Court.

It was the first time that a Japanese high court had ordered a defendant to pay damages in a lawsuit involving Chinese forced laborers.

Legal experts said the decision would likely serve to break down

what has long been called the "barrier of time" in these lawsuits – the argument that the statute of limitations to bring the cases to court had already expired.

Of the 20 lawsuits brought by Chinese victims against Japanese defendants, two have failed, 13 have proven partly successful with courts recognizing the crimes but rejecting compensation claims, and five have resulted in both apologies and compensation.

China's Foreign Ministry has said it will support Chinese who suffered under Japanese occupation, either as a result of exposure to chemical and biological weapons, being forced to be laborers or comfort women, or other acts, to seek compensation from Japan and put it in writing in the official document "Response Regarding No. 5402 Suggestion Proposed on the Second Session of the Tenth National People's Congress".



"Lawsuit won," reads a sign held by a supporter outside the High Court of Hiroshima Prefecture in Japan.

Ancient Greece Comes to Ancient Capital

By Wu Chen

Just in time for the Athens Olympics and hot on the heels of the blockbuster movie Troy, Beijingers will soon be able to get impressions of ancient Greek culture with the opening of the "Ancient Greece: Mortals and Immortals" exhibition at the National Museum of China next Tuesday.

On display will be an extensive collection of more than 120 artifacts from ancient Greece, valued at a total of over 200 million yuan, which arrived in the city Monday.

The pieces, including pottery statues, bronze works, marble sculptures and paintings, were made between Neolithic times and the fifth century A.D. and come from the collections of 37 different Greek museums.

It is the first exhibition of ancient Greek artifacts of this scale held in China.

Chen Yu, curator of the exhibition, said the show was one in the

"World's Ancient Civilizations" series organized since last year.

The Greek show will run concurrent to the National Museum's "Exhibition of Ancient Roman Civilization," which opened June 1 and closes on November 3. That event features 173 artifacts from the glory days of ancient Rome.



Airport customs officers check an ancient statue after its Monday arrival.

One-armed Bandits Removed from Carnival Grounds

By Dong Nan

The popular World Carnival has come under fire recently, as on July 2 when 14 slot machines were confiscated from the fairgrounds inside the Beijing International Sculpture Park in Wukesong, Haidian District.

Far more frightening to 10 carnival-goers was a power failure at the "Topbuzz" ride last Sunday that left them stranded and hanging upside-down in the windmill-like ride for 10 minutes. Emergency power was routed to the ride and the victims rescued. Carnival organizers are talking with the 10 people about compensation.

Before being confiscated, the "illegal" slot machines stood on the eastern side of the fairgrounds under red cloth covers and a spread of stuffed toys. Several guards stood watch over the area to protect the toys from theft.

"This had been one of the hottest spots in the carnival," a carnival employee who would not give his name told *Beijing Youth Daily* after the crackdown. "There were always lots of people around the machines."

That source said that the ma-

chines only took carnival coins, which could not be redeemed for money, and paid off in points that could go towards prizes. "A few people even came up from Shanghai just to play the game," he said.

The Shijingshan Cultural Bureau informed carnival organizers on Tuesday afternoon that the slot machines represented a kind gambling, illegal in China. A bureau official later admitted to Beijing Youth Daily that opinions within the organization differed on the ruling since the carnival was a temporary venue not trying to run a long-term gambling scheme.

The same slot machines were operated at last year's Shanghai World Carnival without any objection from authorities.

The carnival also got in trouble for noise last week, when nearby residents complained on CCTV that the festive racket had been keeping them from getting a good night's sleep. Event organizers then offered to provide offended neighbors with compensation of 300 yuan to 800 yuan each, though the residents told CCTV they were not satisfied.



Poster of "Shi Mian Mai Fu"

By Zhou Ying / Yu Shan Shan

A tremendous storm hit Beijing Saturday afternoon, yet fortunately didn't adversely affect the gala premiere of Zhang Yimou's second martial arts film "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*", also known as "*House of Flying Daggers*" or "*Lovers*".

But from the very beginning, a heated debate has broken out over three main issues before the movie has even been widely released.

Although a traditional Chinese period piece, Zhang Yimou employed foreign artists in key posts in the film's production. The costume designer was Japanese, as well as the film's composer. Even the theme song of the film was sung by an international singer – Kathleen Battle, of the USA.

Some cinephiles hold that Battle's voice cannot fully reflect the special charm of the Tang Dynasty, so it sounds more like a western opera. Even Yu Long, the conductor of the theme song, cannot understand why they didn't ask any of the many excellent Chinese composers. "To tell you the truth, I think this song is not that good," he told journalists after the ceremony.

While the western world is used to seeing star studded "event" premieres of the latest summer blockbuster, it was the first time that China had seen such an opening night party. Attended by the the stars of



Takeshi Kaneshiro kisses Zhang Ziyi in "Shi Mian Mai Fu"

Daggers Drawn over Zhang Yimou's Latest



Zhang Yimou at the premiere ceremony

the movie including Zhang Ziyi, Andy Lau and Takeshi Kaneshiro, the event lasted more than three hours. Popular domestic singers performed their hits in front of an audience of famous faces. The Worker's Stadium was converted into a big stage to host the party, which cost over 20 million yuan. But unlike premieres in Hollywood or London,

the movie itself was not shown. This has led to criticism of why such a large sum of money was needed to hold a party just to publicize a film.

Some commentators doubted whether such a grand ceremony would realise the promotional hopes of the producers behind the movie. Zhang Weiping, executive producer of the film, answered at the press conference, "This promotion is the best way to attract attention. If China had ten events like this every year, the industry will be better for it."

Last but not least is that "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*" will be on general release both in the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong in mid-July. At the same time, the release of foreign films has been restricted

for 2 months during the summer, which means domestic audiences will have no alternative but to choose "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*". There has been criticism, including from other film directors that it is absolutely not a fair and free competition.

The name of the movie comes from a musical piece played on a *Pipa* (a plucked string instrument with a fretted fingerboard) which is literally translated into "Ambush From All Sides". The original composition is about an infamous battle 2,000 years ago. However, in the film, "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*" is about a blind girl entertainer and *Pipa* player engaged in some political and possibly criminal entanglement, and a love affair with two police offi-

cers in the Tang Dynasty.

Wen Jun, film critic from Hong Kong

It is really an unfair competition. Nearly every other film gives way to avoid a conflict. They do not want to fight recklessly. We can see that in the next two or three weeks, the film "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*" will be the only choice for local audiences in cinemas.

There is no other director in China like Zhang Yimou who can enjoy such favorable treatment from authority: Only one film occupies the market with the capability of grossing two or three hundred million at the box-office. It reflects faults in the film system.

I guess the government needs these commercial films, like "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*", to show the outside world that Chinese people have the ability to produce a film that wins acclaim both from experts and ordinary people.

It is like a boxing match which has been fixed. Foreign films are not allowed in, and other Chinese films have been driven away.

If he really takes strength into consideration, they should place the film on a fair platform, and release the film against summer blockbusters like "*Spider Man 2*" and the latest "*Harry Potter*". At least, they should provide ordinary audiences with more choice. If "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*" can win the competition at that time, we can call it a real success.

Any multiplex cinema in a big city is able to provide such a battlefield. It would be a win-win situation for all involved.

Amy Zhu, an editor from CCTV

There is no doubt that major players in the film industry want to succeed in breaking box-office records in China, by spending so much money trying to publicize their film. Powerful actors, such as Zhang Ziyi, Hong Kong actor Andy Lau and Takeshi Kaneshiro, will guarantee future success.

However, let's go back to the publicity about "*Hero*", I am sure that the scope of the publicity was second to none in China at that time. However, the result was just the opposite to what they wished. Some audiences even had

the feeling of being cheated. Actually, what the audience really expects is an excellent film, instead of good looking publicity. The film itself is the fundamental and direct factor to guarantee box office success. I hope that after this vigorous publicity, the film is indeed really splendid.

As far as the music and theme song, I think this is a selling point of this film. On the other hand, we can see it as preparation to march towards the international market. In my opinion, the main target of Zhang's recent films foreign audiences, not domestic ones.

But let's wait until we see the film before giving the final conclusion.

Tony Wang, a video photographer for TV station

Personally I think Zhang Yimou is a master of vision, instead of a master of movies.

Since "*Hero*", I feel that his story telling abilities have become weaker and weaker. One of the biggest problems of his films now, I think, is that the plot is less important than the visuals. I mean it seems that form is more important than content. His films are accumulations of all kinds of symbols, without attractive plots. As foreign audiences are increasingly familiar with martial arts films, it is impossible to attract them by providing them some simple symbols. He should pay attention to the scenario itself.

I don't think it is inappropriate for them to invite foreign artists. As we always say, music is boundless. As long as the music they made is consistent with the theme of the film, we can accept it. A foreign artist can compose music with Chinese features also. It is just like a Chinese dancer can dance Indian dance perfectly, as well.

Zhao Shuang, a journalist from Beijing Daily

Even music experts like Yu Long cannot understand why they choose foreign artists and singer, let alone our ordinary people. I believe this film is the only Chinese film in which the theme song cannot be understood by local people.

As a famous director, maybe he has his own reasonable plans that we cannot totally understand. However, I think it is Chinese composers that can perfectly embody Chinese culture. Why did they spare no efforts to employ a Japanese artist to compose Chinese music?

I guess maybe he just wants to please Oscar experts by doing so. By I just want to mention to him that Chinese traditional music can also receive applause in the outside world, such as "*Liang Zhu*", and "Twelve Girls' Band". I insist that only national things can be international.

Jin Zhaojun, Beijing-based pop critic

To some extent, I think Zhang Yimou really can be called a successful director. Some years ago, he had no idea about how to make films commercial, but now, nearly all his films find an audience no matter how dull they are.

Actually the film was born to be a commodity from the very beginning, rather than art. We have to set up a commercial platform and use this platform as a basis for art films. As ordinary people say, quantity, not quality. In fact, film itself is a kind of industry. Therefore, as long as we admit his film is a commercial film, we accept his way of directing the film and making publicity.

If a director wants to introduce his film to the outside world, he should make his film itself international. Take "*Shi Mian Mai Fu*" for example, director Zhang added many international elements into this film, such as the music and clothes. I don't think it is wrong to employ foreign artists, because we Chinese composers now don't have the ability to make music famous to the rest of the world. I think too many local elements cannot be accepted by foreign people.

Speaking of the grand ceremony, I think it was worthwhile. Nowadays, only if you spend a large sum of money can you get a good return. Generally speaking, the publicity fee should equate to the money you spend in producing a film. Therefore, I don't think it is a waste of time.

Speaking English: a Convention too far?

By Jiang Lin

More than 500 Chinese physicists from all over the world gathered in Shanghai for the 4th Overall Chinese Physicists Convention on June 28th. The language used throughout the conference was English – for reports, question and answer sessions, even sign boards were in English rather than Chinese, Xinmin Evening News reported on July, 4th.

Only one report was given in Chinese, by Ding Zhaozhong, the American Nobel Prize Winner. He was referred to as "a person going against the current" by some in the Chinese media, according to Xinhua on July 10th.

Pen Qiuhe, one of the scholars applied to do his speech in Chinese but was refused by the organizer, *China Youth Daily* reported on July 9th.

"Most scholars can speak Chinese and they communicated in Chinese in daily dialogue except those who can only speak English. But when it comes to academic terms used in physics, it's not easy to find suitable characters to translate them into. So they use English as required." Ni, who refused to give his full name, was one of the workers running the event at Shanghai Jiaotong University.

The conference was organized by The Global Chinese Physics Association, which requires English to be spoken at international events.

Some of the postgraduates from Fudan and Shanghai Jiaotong University had problems in understanding the English academic reports, *Shanghai Youth Daily* reported. Criticism and comments about the event and the issue of the language have been widely reported in news-

papers and over the internet.

An article from People.com on July 8th (anonymous)

It is unreasonable to forbid Chinese to speak Chinese especially in China.

Shanghai is becoming stronger and stronger in the world's stage. More and more foreigners are learning Chinese nowadays, why should we adore English so much? The Chinese language is the mental homeland of the continuous Chinese culture.

Ni, one of the event organizers at Shanghai Transportation University

There's no need at all to translate. Don't you think it is a big waste of time to do useless work? We use English just to improve the efficiency of our work.

We didn't forbid them to use Chinese, we only considered the needs of all the scholars.

Some Chinese journalists don't have enough professional knowledge when they saw only English words, so they misled public opinion.

Gao Bingzhong, professor of sociology of Peking University

It is an international convention indeed to speak English at international events, for the convenience of communication. There was no need to require all the people to speak only English at this Shanghai affair. Probably the organizer regarded English as having a certain reputation level of respectability, in which case Chinese was excluded unconsciously.

Wang Jiantao, the section chief of technology, Physics Institute, China Science School

The participants should do what the organizers requested

them to do. There is no doubt that English is used at international meetings, whether in China or in other English speaking countries. It is an academic meeting only, not connected to the cultural sensibility. The love of one's country and the language used in speaking are two different things. Professor Ding did show his love for his motherland, but not all overseas Chinese can speak Chinese fluently because they were raised in a total foreign environment. Foreigners studying Chinese or Chinese studying English is a private habit for oneself, not indicating the love or hate of one's own country's culture.

A journalist from Xinmin Evening News

Professor Ding's English is good without doubt, but he expressed a cultural sensibility exceeding physics. The Chinese who are eager to communicate without trouble should love and respect their native language more and never let Chinese be refused in their own country.

A net friend called "Big Han Dynasty's descendant" from 126.com

I believe Chinese is the best language in the world. Shanghai has been developing so fast and also doted on by our country so much these days that she put international concerns ahead of domestic ones. Shanghai people seemed to forget where they were born and whom they belong to, they have more and more worshiping of and blind faith in foreign things.

Another anonymous net friend from 163.com

It is childish for the people who blame Shanghai organizers. We have no good reason to criticize Shanghai's haughti-

ness according to the language they choose. People who made this judgment are so simple-minded.

Si Ke, a net friend from 163.com

English is so widely spread in China so that we almost consider English first before everything. And even children are forced to study English words from the age of 3 before they have mastered Chinese at all. I'm afraid people will forget their native language, the beautiful Chinese which was invented by their ancestors 5000 years ago. Their Grandparents would be depressed and hurt to think of this.

Li Sheng, an instructor at Physics Department of Shanghai Transportation University

No matter what language we use, the purpose is to communicate clearly. It is international propriety to speak English at foreign events, especially in the scientific community. What really matters is that academic words cannot be expressed clearly in Chinese. So to be more convenient and exact, we use English as a communication tool. English is a working language, which is admitted by more and more people.

We didn't forbid them to use Chinese, professors can choose what they like, and some of the reports were spoken in Chinese, not all of them were English. Their audience can suggest what languages they use. Pen Qiuhe's report could not be expressed clearly in Chinese so he was refused by his audience. The media who blamed us didn't make things clear before they took up their pens. The journalists were too prejudiced.

Ma Hongru, a teacher in the Physics Department of Shanghai Transportation University

It is useless to dispute with people without knowledge, nor should we be angry at the criticism or require certain apologies. It is just like we never talk wushu to Lin Daiyu (a girl who didn't understand wushu at all); also never speak love issues to Li Kui (a man who only regards fighting as the whole life).

Chen Xiaobin, a junior student of Renmin University of China

If we can speak clearly in Chinese, why should we use English?

I admit that some Chinese people adore advanced technology and good quality of foreign products but we Chinese shouldn't stray too far from our own culture. People are not encouraged to learn their native language when they try to express themselves in English.

Calvin, an official working at Economic & Commercial Office, Consulate General of P.R.China in Lagos, Nigeria

Chinese belongs to China, but science belongs to the world. If all the participants know English, it really doesn't matter. What really matters is to communicate clearly and efficiently. It is completely two different things between cultural sensibility and what language you choose to communicate.

What impresses me most is that Chinese people are trying their best to learn English nowadays, and it appears to them the importance of being international. It's a good tendency. After all, language is only a tool to communicate.

Father Kidnaps Corpse

Desperate family hid son's body in freezer chest



Fan Huizhen, Lu Haixiang's mother, holds his portrait.

By Wu Chen

On July 4, Lu Chusheng, a villager in Shijing Village, Haining City of Zhejiang Province, finally gave the corpse of his son, Lu Haixiang to Haining People's Procuratorate for a postmortem examination. The corpse had been locked in a freezer chest by Lu Chusheng for nearly a month.

On May 20, 5:00 am, Lu Chusheng saw the corpse of his son in a Haining funeral parlor. His son died on the way to the police station after being arrested by the police in an entertainment center the previous night. He carried the corpse back home and amidst doubts from family and friends about the cause of death, decided to lock his dead son in the freezer.

On July 9, when interviewed by the *Beijing News*, Song Hansong, deputy director of Supreme People's Procuratorate said that they would focus on whether there had been a case of human rights violation.

The death of Lu Haixiang

On the night of May 19, Lu Haixiang was singing in Room 201 of Haining "Yuanquan Entertainment Center" accompanied by a waitress. At one point he touched her breast and was arrested by the officers of Xieqiao Town police station. The waitress and Lu's friend Yao Jianguo, who was singing in the same room with him both stated Lu had touched her.

But as to whether the police beat Lu Haixiang, Yao Jianguo and another witness Jiang Xinfu could not agree with each other. In a report in *Beijing News*, Yao said the police never entered the room and beat Lu Haixiang, while Jiang, who was also singing in the same Entertainment Center, said he saw the police rush into the room and beat Lu Haixiang. The policeman Wang Weifeng, one of the five policemen who caught Lu that night, insisted that they

didn't beat Lu.

Guo Zongmin, the director of the Public Order Group of Haining Public Security Bureau told *Beijing News* on July 7 that when they were waiting for the police car, Lu Haixiang told the policemen he needed to relieve himself and walked to the roadside. He then had a smoke. When a car passed with bright lights obscuring the view, Lu suddenly jumped into the nearby Luotang River and drowned.

Liu Wuxing, the only witness who saw Lu's jump into the river told the *Beijing News* that Lu and two policemen went to the southern roadside together. Lu didn't relieve himself and his hands were bound in front of his body. "It seemed he was cuffed." About ten minutes later, Lu suddenly ran to the river and jumped into it.

The legal medical expert of Haining Public Security Bureau examined the Lu's body, and came to the conclusion that Lu drowned himself.

Lu Chusheng demanded to carry the corpse back home, to stay in the mourning hall at home for three days before cremation.

Doubts surround the death

After getting the corpse back, Lu's family members found that the body had several red and cyan bruises on his neck, chest and abdomen and blood covered his face.

Besides, "My son is good at swimming, he could swim across the Qiantang River. We cannot believe that he would be drowned in that almost still little river. And the jade he wore and his T-shirt were lost, while his trousers and shoes were on," Lu Chusheng added.

On the morning of May 21, Lu's family handed in an application for a postmortem examination to Haining Public Security Bureau. No response was given at the time.

At 6:00 pm, Guo Zongmin, the director of the Public Order Unit of Haining Public Security Bu-

reau called Lu Chusheng, "To do the postmortem in the funeral parlor at 7:00 pm and do the cremation before 8:00 am next morning." This only increased Lu Chusheng's doubts about the real reason for his son's death.

But Ma Weijiang, Deputy Secretary of Haining Municipal Committee and Secretary of Haining Policy and Law Committee said to the *Southern Weekend*, on July 8 police didn't call Lu Chusheng, but Lu Chusheng called the police station and refused to allow the postmortem, leading to the long-term delay of the examination.

A strange agreement

On June 2, Lu Chusheng appealed to Haining Policy and Law Committee for help. Ma Weijiang and deputy secretary Jin Yongxiang received him.

"They tried hard to persuade us not to raise the questions again and not to appeal to the central government. It will make the thing serious and cause trouble for Haining," Lu Chusheng told *Southern Weekend*.

The two sides also signed an agreement. It stated:

"As Lu Haixiang is the main bread winner for his family, and his family will face some financial difficulty after his death, thus, secretary of Haining Policy and Law Committee Ma Weijiang, deputy secretary Jin Yongxiang, and director Zhang Jianzhong and Lu's family members sign the agreement about financial aid."

"First, the family members of Lu Haixiang have no question about the accidental drowning of Lu, so they will not ask Haining People's Procuratorate to investigate this case and will not demand an autopsy. Second, finish the funeral arrangements of Lu before June 10. Third, Ma, Jin and Zhang will raise a relief fund of 50,000 yuan for Lu's family..."

Jin Yongxiang, Zhang Jianzhong and Lu Haixiang's parents and wife signed the agreement. Jin Yongxiang also personally donated 2,000 yuan

to Lu's family. On June 2, Lu's family got 12,000 yuan from the financial section of Haining Policy and Law Committee.

On June 5, Lu Chusheng and his friend Zhang Luting went to Beijing, to hand in an appeal to the Ministry of Public Security, the Supreme People's Procuratorate and National People's Congress.

On June 10, Lu Chusheng went home and told the family members to protect the corpse and wait for the investigation.

"We felt it was quite strange they wanted us to finish the funeral arrangements quickly and we thought there must be something wrong. We didn't really want to sign the agreement. Since our family isn't rich, we wanted to use the money to appeal to higher authorities for help," Lu Chusheng told *Beijing Today*.

Trapped in a jam

The people of Lu's village also doubted the reasons for Lu's death, and they supported Lu Chusheng's actions against Haining Public Security Bureau.

Lu Chusheng told *Beijing Today* that on June 22, Ling Gaoming, a so-called private company owner went to Shijing Village, and he said he would rent eight buses to carry the villagers to Hangzhou for the appeal.

"It was absolutely a trap!" Lu Chusheng said to *Beijing Today*, "The next day, hundreds of villagers were waiting for the buses in front of my house. They didn't see Ling but found there were six or seven police cars parked on the road behind our village."

"They felt angry and rushed to the cars to ask for reasons. The policemen made no answer and the cars withdrew one by one. The villagers followed them. At last they all came to the main road and made a serious traffic jam."

That day, the road from Hangzhou to Haining was jammed for one and a half hours.

Lu Chusheng also said that there were lots of policemen on the main road, but they just stood there, doing nothing to break up the jam.

Four villagers were arrested by Haining Public Security Bureau from the evening of June 23 to the morning of June 24 because of the traffic jam.

The autopsy allowed

"The family members of the four arrested came to my house every day, and asked me to save them," Lu Chusheng told *Beijing Today* Monday.

He also said, at about 1:50 am of June 24, over ten cars drove into the village, including the police cars and a hearse from the funeral parlor. There were more than 200 special duty policemen surrounding his house.

Ma Weijiang denied the special duty policemen ever entered the village in a report by *Beijing News*.

On June 26, Ling Gaoming found Lu Chusheng. Lu Chusheng then knew that Ling Gaoming and Ma Weijiang were comrades in arms. Ling said he could help solve the problem.

Then Lu Chusheng went to see Ma in Ling's car and they reached an oral contract: Lu's family would give up the corpse and Haining Public Security Bureau were to release the four arrested.

"We know that the Public Security Bureau arresting villagers and surrounding my house were both for getting back the body of my son," Lu Chusheng told *Beijing Today*.

At about 9:00 am June 29, over ten plainclothesmen entered Lu's house and unlocked the freezer chest.

In the afternoon of the same day, the four arrested villagers were obtaining a guarantor and pending trial.

In the afternoon of July 4, the legal medical experts from Zhejiang Provincial People's Procuratorate and Jiaying Municipal People's Procuratorate began a systematic autopsy and postmortem examination in Haining funeral parlor. The family members were allowed to watch the examination procedure.

The examination was set to last 15 days. The results are said to be due on July 19th. Lu, his family and friends are all waiting anxiously.

Traffic Cops Living in Lap of Luxury

By Wang Fang

On June 30 and July 1, Chengdu Shangbao, a Sichuan based newspaper disclosed that the traffic police squads in Liangping County, Hechuan City and Tongliang County in Chongqing, the latest municipality directly under the Central Government, had been building villas for their policemen.

In Liangping County

The "Liangping No.1 Villa District", villas built for the traffic police of Liangping traffic police squad, is near to the toll station of Yuwan (from Chongqing to Wanzhou) Highway. There are 10 villas with red roofs and white walls in European style. The locals commented that "these houses are the best ones in our county and every passerby will turn their heads to look again".

Walking inside the villas, everyone will be impressed by their delicate design. Two households share one villa. The living room, room for a domestic helper and an en suite bedroom is on the first floor and on the second floor there are en suite bedrooms and one big living room.

On an imposing but empty building in front of the villas is written "Serving the Country and People". This is the new office building of Liangping traffic police squad.

When asked about the villas, Shi Guangfu, the chief of the squad corrected the use of the word "villa". He said, "We are not building villas but apartments. I think you can only call a house 'villa' if it has a garden and a swimming pool. Apparently, we don't have those."

According to him, the construction began in 2002 on a complex consisting of 20 apartments with an average floor space of 270 square meters and 28 duplex apartments, average floor space 260 square meters. "Our houses are similar to those of farmers",

said Shi. He even thought that these European styled villas were not as good as farmers' houses. "In the rural area, farmers have built a number of new houses at least 200-300 square meters in size and some are even much bigger."

The squad instructor, Hu Shixin said that these houses were built with funds raised by the policemen, "The squad did not spend a penny from public funds." He complained, "there is no regulations to say that policemen cannot live in a villa." He implied that others should not be jealous.

In Hechuan City

It is not too difficult to find the villas built for the traffic policemen in Hechuan City. They are situated on the east side of Paifang Street, Xincheng District. These villas are just opposite the offices of Hechuan City Government and less than 100 meters away from Hechuan City Land and Resources Bureau.

A construction worker revealed that each villa has three floors above the ground and one floor below ground as the garage. The first floor is designed as the private garden, in house bar counter, living room, the room for the domestic, toilets and balcony; the second floor another living room, the main bedroom, the children's room, the guest room, toilets and the third floor is for the roof garden, another main bedroom, the study and toilets. The worker said, "When we hand in the semi-finished houses to the squad, it is negotiated at 353 yuan per square meter. We will lose a great deal of profit."

In Tongliang County

A source who has some inside information said, "It is Tongliang County traffic police squad who started to build villas."

There are three rows of 21 villas at the back of Tongliang County traffic police squad with pink glazed tile at the

top. Two households share one building. At present, the external decoration has been finished and the internal decoration is almost finished. The worker who cleaned the floors said that the interior cost 100,000 yuan for each household; luxury indeed in the suburbs of Chongqing.

It is said the land for the office building and the villas was expropriated from the villagers nearby. The squad paid only 17,000 yuan to each villager. The villagers feel the compensation is far too low, but are powerless to do anything about it.

The violation of relevant regulations

After hearing about the investigation into the villas for the traffic police, Peng Anxu, the chief of the Housing Reform and the Support Section of Chongqing Land and Resources Bureau said, "the villas in these three places must have violated the relevant regulations."

He first explained the concept of "building houses by raised funds" referring to the villas in Tongliang, Liangping and Hechuan. He said that such building was to solve the problem of workers who have difficulty in buying housing. The targets are workers who either do not have an apartment or their apartment is too small. There are certain criteria for such buildings: for instance, the chief of the traffic police squad should be entitled to not more than 100 square meters floor space, and regular grades are entitled to 85 square meters. "The floor space of the villas in these three places has already gone beyond this requirement," said Peng.

In Liangping, the investigation carried out by Chongqing Police Bureau shows that on December 18, 2001, the Developing and Reform Committee of Liangping County approved Liangping traffic police squad to build a building for its staff



Partly constructed villa in Liangping county, Chongqing

by using the raised fund. The floor space approved was 11,000 square meters for 65 apartments each with 160 square meters of the floor space. However, on August 16, 2002, after consulting with the policemen, the squad decided to expand the scale to the present villas with luxury apartments.

In order to build the new office building and the villas, Liangping traffic police squad expropriated altogether 40 mu (about 26,680 square meters) of land in which less than 10 mu was used for the office building and the rest for the villas.

According to Xiong Jian, the vice-director of Liangping Land Reservation Center, the price for the land expropriated by the squad is about 200,000 yuan per mu. This means that the total price for the land only was more than 6 million yuan.

Questions were asked as to why they built 48 apartments for only 45 policemen. Chief Shi Guangfu said that the spares were for new comers. But he failed to reply when asked who was to pay for the other 3.

During construction of the villas, Hechuan traffic police squad "required" the local brick factories to "contribute" bricks. A representative of one of the factories, quite far away from Hechuan City, sighed, "No one wants to give them bricks free for charge." He said that the villas used about

4 million bricks with 500,000 bricks "contributed" by the nearby brick factories.

Trace the blame

After learning of this incident, Zhu Mingguo, the director of Chongqing Police Bureau instructed in writing that they would carry out an immediate investigation in order to find the truth and would advise the local government to punish the person who had violated the regulations.

Wu Kelang, the director of Hechuan City Police Bureau admitted that the traffic police squad indeed took 500,000 bricks for free. "They've hurt people's interests," said Wu. He also revealed that Xu Zuojun, the chief of Hechuan City traffic police squad, was criticized in the official dispatch and the squad was required to pay back the money for the bricks.

Shi Guangfu, the chief of Liangping County traffic police squad was suspended from his duties and Liangping County traffic police squad are barred from getting any of the villas.

Chongqing Land and Resources Bureau as well as the Police Bureau indicate that the fees of the extra land occupied by the villas must be shared by the policemen.

Interest has been aroused from the Ministry of Public Security and they will also undertake an investigation.

By Guo Xiaojing / Zhang Huan

Professor Zang Yingnian, an American Chinese, is 72 years old now and refers to himself as “an old monkey” for he was born in the year of the monkey. At his age, most people are enjoying the happiness and leisure that retirement brings. But Zang prefers to devote all his energy and money into anti-smoking activities. He has written a book “You Can Do It,” in which he details his rich experience in persuading people not to smoke. He says, “to dissuade others from smoking is the only choice for me.”

An angry activist

Zang was born in Tianjin in 1932. During the Anti-Japanese War, he moved with his family to Sichuan Province and later in the 1940s, to Taiwan. He was in the military in Taiwan and after being released from military service in the 1960s, he moved to Seattle, where he studied for a Master degree in education. He worked in an academy until his retirement.

Having lived in the Chinese mainland, Taiwan and the USA, Zang says he holds a strong affection toward all three places and hopes he can do something helpful for China and Chinese people. In the 1970s and 1980s, as a leader of the overseas Chinese community in Seattle, he tried his best to promote the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and



An anti-smoking advertisement in a subway station in Shanghai

Photo by Imaginechina

Professor Fights to Stub Out Smoking

the US and took an active part in promoting non-governmental communication between the two countries.

“I have participated in various social activities and a basic element of my personality is that I am enthusiastic in promoting public good,” says Zang.

In 1990, Zang came to the mainland with his wife, Miao Lihua, an expert in culture and education who was invited to work in Beijing. At first, Zang felt he would not have a chance to be of use in his new life, but he did not expect an incident in 1992 to give him a new goal to aim for. “On January 7, 1992, I was waiting for my flight in Hangzhou airport, Zhejiang Province. In the lounge, people were smoking all over the place, but a poster on the wall read ‘No Smoking.’ I was very curious and asked the attendant at the service desk, ‘why don’t you stop the smokers?’ she told me, ‘regulations are only regulations. Nobody has complained. You are the first. Sometimes flights are delayed. Passengers get in a bad mood. It’s understandable for them to want to take a puff.’ I asked, ‘since you don’t want to stop them yourself, why not broadcast the ban on the public address system?’ The attendant thought I was making a mountain out of a molehill. I asked if they could assign someone to fine the rule breakers. She answered, ‘the butts are everywhere, how do we fine them? This is the cleaner’s problem.’ I was angered.

“I went to the center of the lounge and shouted, ‘from now on Hangzhou airport will impose strict fines on smokers. Anyone who still smokes come to the service desk to receive a fine of 10 yuan.’ Everyone dropped their cigarettes to the ground. I sat down with pride. A young man suddenly came to me and said, ‘a Japanese was smoking there. He does not know Chinese. I told him what you said in Japanese and he threw down his butt.’

“After I got on the plane, a man asked me, ‘Are you a leader of the Civil Aviation of China?’ I was amused. I told



Zang and his wife at a party with friends

him, ‘I am only a teacher from the US.’ The man was actually an official of the Hangzhou government. He praised me, ‘your action is very good.’

I was inspired by the incident – where there is a will, there is a way. I immediately wrote a short article about quitting smoking to the overseas edition of People’s Daily and it was published. From then on, I began my anti-smoking campaign.”

No opportunity too small

Since 1992, Zang has been making use of any chance to advocate his anti-smoking cause. One morning, Zang was having breakfast at the restaurant of a hotel he saw a middle-aged official-looking man smoking. Zang approached him and said, “Though China does not have any regulation on forbidding smoking in public places, I wonder if you have ever thought of giving up smoking.” The man was astonished at Zang’s words, but he immediately understood and stubbed out his cigarettes and apologized. Zang said to him, “There’s no regulation that forbids you to smoke, but if

‘Most smokers know only superficially the harm of smoking and they do not want to know more because they resist quitting smoking in the heart. They think they could easily give up after they got ill or that they may be one of the lucky ones to not get ill at all.’

you want to stop smoking, I will tell you the way.” The man said, “I came here to meet two old friends who also smoke. We will visit you together later.” Zang went back to his room and waited for 20 minutes but the three men did not come. Zang went to the hall again to look for the three men and found them.

After inviting them to his room, Zang took out nicotine patches to place on the wrists of the three men. He tried

to convince them by reasoning “with this plaster on your wrists, you won’t feel uncomfortable. The reason why you feel uncomfortable after quitting smoking is that the nicotine in your blood is decreasing. When you smoke, you draw in nicotine and tar as well as more than 20 other harmful chemicals, which make your blood deteriorate. Your blood vessels will blacken and narrow, causing lack of oxygen. This can cause lung cancer, oral cancer, stomach cancer, bladder cancer and kidney problems as well as sexual impotence, heart attack, ...” The three men were horrified and promptly said, “We will quit, we will quit.”

Tireless campaigner

Having worked hard to oppose smoking for a long time, Zang has grasped the psychology of smokers: they know only superficially the harm of smoking and they do not want to know more because they resist quitting smoking in the heart. They think they could easily give up after they got ill or that they may be one of the lucky ones not to get ill at all.

Zang’s past experiences have given him opportunities to befriend a lot of celebrities, some of whom become his targets. He believes that if celebrities quit smoking, they will set a good example for more people. Cai Zhenhua, head coach of China’s national table tennis team, is one of the names listed in his notebook. Zang and Cai first met in 1982, when 20-year-old Cai just got his world championship and came to the University of Princeton with his teammates to take part in an open tournament. Zang took a one-week leave and flew across the country to watch the match. He took hundreds of pictures for the players and made a special album for every team member. And Cai, in return, presented one of his gold medals to Zang. Zang and Cai have been friends ever since.

Zang knows Cai has tried many times to give up smoking but always resumes when his spirits are low or he is busy at work. Whenever Zang calls Cai, he always begins by asking if he has given up yet. On May 31, after Zang finished promoting his book “You Can Do It” in Xidan Book Building, Beijing, Cai picked him up and took him to his training center. Before the meeting, Zang bought two table-tennis bats and on them he wrote “Chinese Men Do Become Stronger, World Champions Do not Smoke.” He gave the two bats to Cai and said that he hoped the ex-world champion would sign his name on the bats and use them to publicize anti-smoking ideas. Cai was moved and gave Zang his promise.

Family support

Zang’s cause also brought changes to his family. His mother stopped smoking at the age of 70 and his brothers all gave up smoking. He also set a good example for his two sons who do not smoke or drink. Zang says family influence is very important in the forming of good habits, but more important is the judgement of an individual himself. That is why in one family, some smoke while

some do not. One should have his own ideas and not just follow the trend.

“I once talked with my youngest son Xirong about smoking when he was in primary school. I told him some harms of smoking and he came up with some others. At last he said seriously, ‘in my eyes, there is a big disadvantage to smoking: My mouth will smell bad if I smoke, and the girls would not like to kiss me.’ When Xirong was in high school, an older student saying tried to persuade him to smoke and said, ‘older boys are courageous enough to smoke and those young and timid do not dare to smoke. How about you?’ Xirong answered, ‘though I am not an older boy, I have the mind of a man. I don’t smoke.’ Now whenever I think of his words, I feel proud. My anti-smoking cause can bring about a strong sense of achievement.”

Of all the people that support his cause, Zang is most thankful to his wife, Miao Lihua. “My wife has suggested that I write a book summarizing my experience in persuading others to quit smoking. She always places hope on me and encourages me. After my retirement, my income has dropped and we are still paying the mortgage for our house. To follow my cause, I spend a lot on telephone charges and travel expenses, but she has never complained because she knows I’m enthusiastic about public services and she hopes I am always happy.”

Despite the support from his family and friends, Zang has also been criticized for seeking the limelight, to which Zang pays no attention. “For what do I need to seek the limelight? I always feel I am working for an important cause. And it gives no pressure to me. I can do it at any time and in any situation. I have never thought of giving up my cause because I love it. But I don’t want to do it in the USA because there are other people who are doing it. I prefer to make more efforts in China. This is the only choice for me.”



Peng Lei with one of his cartoon creations. Photos by Hu Yujiang

By Yu Shanshan

Zheng Yi is 27 years old this year, married and unemployed. After doing the daily supermarket shopping in a more or less normal adult way, her greatest pleasure is telling stories in a little girl's voice on her website www.kaduo.com, where people

can also find her cartoon drawings. Both in the "real" world and in cyberspace, she prefers to be known as Ms. Gudaduo. "Even at high school, I knew that I would still be very childish even when I'm in my 60s... I've always felt that I'm a child!"

Peng Lei, who is the same age as Zheng Yi, had a nightmare when he was at high school – he dreamt that he woke up to find he was 50 years old, his face covered with wrinkles. "It was horrible!" he recalls. Peng still finds he cannot adapt to the adult

world. After spending four years working in a succession of companies, in 2002, he decided he would simply do the things he enjoyed doing, like collecting toy models and holding an exhibition at Houhai when his collection was big enough. He also makes cartoon movies, designing all his models, sets and costumes. "There's no need to try to understand the weird demands of clients," he maintains.

Zheng and Peng belong to the generation of children of the 70s and 80s, and like many others now in their twenties-to-thirties, are still "kids at heart." In the eyes of "real" grown ups, they are too nostalgic for their own good and cannot adapt to this strange world of modern adulthood; they just want to hang onto their youth, and refuse to shoulder the responsibilities of work and family normally associated with their age group, preferring to party on into middle age and lead a lighthearted, carefree life.

The term "kidult" (kid+adult) appeared as early as August 11, 1985 in an article in *The Times* titled, *Coming Soon: TV's New Boy Network – Kidult*. The original sense of kidult was of a child aspiring to adulthood (in Chinese such children are called *xiao daren*, or little adult), but it is the latter sense, the approaching-middle-

age-but-youthful-adult, that has predominated in recent years, perhaps fuelled by the increasing quantity of children's products marketed at this emerging group of potential consumers.

A typical example is the young woman – maybe late twenties, wearing a Winnie the Pooh T-shirt, a Swatch Ducky Bath wrist watch, going to work with her Nokia N.Gage game machine-like cell phone in her Hello-Kitty handbag. After work, she unwinds at home playing Play Station 2 games on her fluorescent orange Apple iBook. She collects the entire range of Snoopy toys from McDonald's, loves Disney films and has read every Harry Potter. Such a young woman would smile on being told she is *ke ai*, but would herself be more likely to use the Japanese equivalent, *kawaii*, meaning "cute."

In the 50s, people married at 25 and a year later, had their first child. Twenty-five or so years later, they would be grandparents. In the

twenty-first century, this rhythm has been broken, and the divisions between childhood and adulthood are becoming more and more blurred. Children want to look like adults (and are encouraged to do so), and adults want to deny their age, hanging on to the pleasures and freedom of youth. "How do you expect me to have children when I'm a child myself?" is an often-heard justification for delaying parenthood. Meanwhile the older generations continue to complain about this "chaotic situation."

Many people have put forward a variety of explanations for the manifestation of such culture. As Phoenix TV host Liang Dong said, "In childhood, people couldn't feel happy, strictly controlled by parents and school, so when they grow into adulthood, and gain more power to decide what to choose or what to reject, and have money to pursue their dreams, they set out to make up for their lost childhood and adolescence."

The relative loose and comfortable social environment in modern China is another reason. "Children who are brought up in happy and wealthy families are more likely to grow into *kidulthood*," Zheng Yi says.

With the development of this crossover culture, publishers and booksellers have recognized a new, huge market potential. Both children and adults love the unlimited imaginative space and the clear, strong storytelling that children's fiction offers. Witness the astronomical sales of Harry Potter books and similar types of stories.

Zheng Yuanjie, a famous author of children's literature, says, "If you maintain the habit of indulging in a little 'foolish' fantasy while gaining knowledge every day, as a child does, the habit will strengthen your knowledge. Knowledge equipped with a pair of 'fantasy' wings will bring you fame and riches."

Furthermore, for adult readers, children's books carry the ageless resonance of myth, for beneath the addictive adventures and hypnotic prose, these children's stories are grappling with the big questions: Who are we? Where do we come from? How should we live? That's the point kidults are always pondering inside.

But in reality, choosing to live

as a kidult is not that easy, both in terms of economy and traditional ideology, as in the expectations of society. There is a common misconception that kidults are a new phenomenon, but in fact, would-be Peter Pans have been part of every society for centuries. "Every era has its own kidult," Peng Lei says, "Like me, they just see the world a little differently to the way others see it."

Kidult means more than "refusing to grow up" – it is a life philosophy that leads its chooser to live a more light-hearted, carefree life. Everyone has a lost child in his or her heart. "Want to be a kidult? Easy. Try to look at this world from another point of view, with more imagination, more curiosity and more humor," Zheng suggests.

With this standard as a measure, it is easy to identify a stream of illustrious kidults- 'Mr. Bean,' Charlie Chaplin, Albert Einstein, Picasso, Walt Disney, George Lucas, Leonardo Da Vinci, J. K. Rowling, Philippe Stark ... and the list goes ... straight on till morning.



Zheng Yi, aka Ms. Gudaduo, in her "office."



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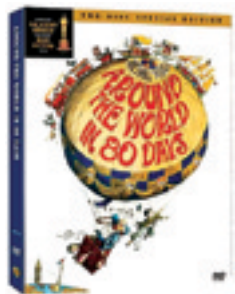
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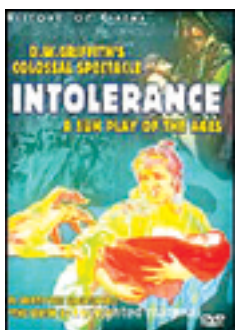
What's on DVD

By Jiang Haoshu



Around the World in 80 Days

Amusing, amazing, this winner of five Academy Awards in 1956 is now blessed with a highly collectable special edition, with bonus features including outtakes, original trailers, reminiscences, one-year anniversary telecast, academy awards ceremony highlights, commentary and more. Double DVD 9, English and French, with English, French, Spanish and Chinese subtitles.



Intolerance

The film of films, *Intolerance* has never lost its glory and impact since its first screening in 1916 (despite putting D. W. Griffith into lifelong personal debt). This edition, with special features including a filmed introduction, two films that inspired Griffith and excerpts of an alternate ending, is in English with English and Chinese subtitles.



American Short Shorts (1999 - 2001)

Within a handsome hard-cover package are tucked nine representative short films made in the US between 1999 and 2001, namely *Snowpea & Tofu*, *Tulip*, *Mass Transit*, *Herd*, *The Light of Darkness*, *Desserts*, *Red Ribbon*, *More and Glad Rags to Riches* (with footage made in 1932). Three DVD 5, English, with English, Chinese and Japanese subtitles.

I Wanna Know about the Mystery Dance

By Yu Shanshan

There is not a lot of information to be found on the Internet about Korean dance company Dasom, in English at least. And although the promoter of this weekend's performance at Tianqiao Theatre describes Dasom as the most famous dance company in South Korea, they were unable to provide more than a brief and somewhat vague introduction to the company's signature piece, *Four Seasons*.

According to the press

release, "The transitions of the four seasons are like the changes in life. Taking the seasons' transition as a metaphor for life is always the advantage of aesthetic literature." Well, yes ... but what about the dance!

Korean art typically places a heavy emphasis on exquisite presentation, and this modern dance, including the music, stage design, lighting and costumes, as well as the choreography itself, is no exception. Dasom's *Four Seasons* is a poetic dance theatre, choreographed by Yang Seon-hee. A graduate

of Paris University with a dance doctorate degree, Yang is skilled at creating beautiful and elegant movements representing deep, realistic themes.

The Dasom Dance Company, established in 1988, is the most influential dance company in South Korea. Excerpts of the *Four Seasons* were performed at the opening of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games and the 2002 World Cup.

Where: Tianqiao Theatre
When: 7:30 pm, July 16 and 17
Ticket: 40, 80, 120, 180
yuan Tel: 8315 6170/1/2



Billboard Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
Burn	Usher	Confessions
Confessions Part II	Usher	Confessions
Slow Motion	Juvenile Featuring Soulja Slim	Juve the Great
The Reason	Hoobastank	The Reason
If I Ain't Got You	Alicia Keys	The Diary of Alicia Keys



Official UK Singles Top 5

Title	Artist	Album
Burn	Usher	Confessions
Everytime	Britney Spears	In The Zone
That's All Right	Elvis Presley	(CD-Single)
Friday's Child	Will Young	Friday's Child
The Show	Girls Aloud	The Show



Usher reclaims top spot on the Billboard Hot 100 this week as his hit *Burn* rebounded after falling to second place last week. Meanwhile the previous No. 1, American Idol winner Fantasia's *I Believe*, dropped to No. 6. By claiming another week on top, Usher sets a record with 20 weeks at No. 1 in a calendar year (eight for *Burn*; 12 for *Yeah!*) – a feat that has not been accomplished since the Hot 100's introduction in 1958. *Confessions Part II* – the third single from Usher's LaFace/Zomba album *Confessions* –

continues its quest for the top spot, climbing from 3 to 2 this week.

On the UK Charts, *Burn* saw its second week in the top spot, while the highest new entry was a 50-year-old Elvis Presley classic. *That's All Right* had never been issued as a UK single before being released by RCA on July 5 to mark the 50th anniversary of the recording of the vintage Sun track. It landed on the chart at No. 3, marking Presley's 116th British hit and his 1,194th week on the UK singles chart in a span of 48 years.

WORLDWIDE

Diaz Chases Website Over S&M Footage

Hollywood star Cameron Diaz is trying to block a Russian internet site from offering video footage of a saucy movie she made before she was famous.



Cameron Diaz

The Charlie's Angels star, 31, has spent the last year battling to stop the release of footage of her topless and wearing fishnet stockings in the 1992 S&M film. But website Scandal-inc.com is now offering pay-per-view customers the chance to watch the semi-nude star performing role play with a brunette and man in shackles and using a can of compressed air "for a purpose probably not recommended by the manufacturer" in the film they are calling *She's No Angel*: *Cameron Diaz*.

According to Diaz's representatives, a Los Angeles Superior Court judge has issued an injunction banning anyone from distributing photos and video from the film. A cease and desist letter has been sent to the website's owners. (IMDB)

Yoko Ono Makes Old Song Gay Friendly

Yoko Ono has joined the chorus in support of gay marriage by recording *Every Man Has a Man Who Loves Him*, a gay-friendly version of a song she wrote nearly a quarter-century ago.



Yoko Ono

The song *Every Man Has a Woman Who Loves Him*, included on her last album with John Lennon before he was killed in 1980, was also retooled into another version: *Every Woman Has a Woman Who Loves Her*.

The song is both a political statement and a tribute to an audience that has improbably made her a hit act in the dance clubs at the age of 71.

"I should think that people would be more interested in politics and all that is happening, rather than two lovebirds who are looking to wed," she said. "I think it's very nice that in an age when love is so scarce that people are willing to gamble on getting married." (AP)

GN'R Lose Bid to Suppress Recordings

Guns N' Roses frontman Axl

Rose has been denied a preliminary injunction in his attempt to suppress the release of recordings from an early version of the band, *Hollywood Rose*.

Deadline Music, a label affiliated with Cleopatra Records, released the 15-track album *The Roots of Guns N' Roses* on June 22.

The recordings were made in 1984 by Rose and future GN'R guitarist Izzy Stradlin, as well as two other musicians, three years before the Gunners released their debut album, *Appetite for Destruction*. The five original tracks have been augmented with 10 remixes from the likes of Tracii Guns, one-time GN'R guitarist Gilby Clarke and Cinderella drummer Fred Coury.

Rose sued Cleopatra for trademark infringement, improper use of his name and likeness and unfair competition. He argued that the release of the material would interfere with promotion for the recent Guns N' Roses greatest hits album, which he also attempted (and failed) to block in court.

(Reuters)

Disagreement over Birth Of Rock

That's All Right, recorded by Elvis Presley on July 5, 1954 at Memphis' Sun Records Studios, has commonly been considered the birth of rock-n-roll. Yet to some musicians and critics, that date seems a bit late, considering the amount of actual rock 'n' roll already released by that time.

Critics have long pointed to several important records that pre-date Presley's famous Sun recording session that July. Jackie Brenston's *Rocket 88*, released in 1951, and Bill Haley and his Comets' *Shake, Rattle And Roll*, released in 1954, were both out before Elvis recorded his first single.

Rolling Stone magazine's deputy managing editor Joe Levy says, "Elvis Presley is the legitimate starting point for... rock 'n' roll." Levy contends that it was Presley's phenomenon that changed the American culture and eventually the world.

(Launch Radio Networks)

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加裕华装饰

By Wang Yao

Southwest China's Miao people, one of the country's 56 ethnic minorities, have a local home (or at least some of their handiwork does) at the Yiku (Cool Art) store on Andingmennei Dajie.

The two-storey shop is packed with exotic items fashioned by the Miao, most of whom reside in the distant southwestern regions of Yunnan and Guangxi.

Among the most striking offerings are carved wood sculptures, many drawing inspiration from Miao myths. Stand-outs items have "big horns" – a traditional sign of leadership among the Miao – such as figures of a king or Guanyin, the goddess of mercy. Other sculptures portray traditional images considered lucky throughout China, like tigers, dragons, phoenixes and tortoises. These works are crafted from peach wood, yellow elm and sandalwood, many taking creative license with natural roots, and are priced from 2,200 yuan to 11,000 yuan.

Smaller versions of Miao totems and traditional images can be had in a range of pieces meant to drive away "nuo", a Miao word for wickedness. Some come as colorful masks of different gods, others as talismans that can be strung from a chord to make attractive and potential protective necklaces. Prices run from 22 yuan to 899 yuan.

The Miao have a well-known tradition of batik production and Yiku is a virtual showroom for beautiful wax-died fabrics. They range in scale from a three-meter-long depiction of nine dragons playing with a pearl to small pieces that portray daily life in Miao villages.

Store owner Li Yuanyuan said every batik piece on offer was made by the hands of a master artisan with at least 30 years of experience – going a long way towards explaining prices of 198 yuan to 1,300 yuan.

Less expensive batiks are made less traditionally, mostly evident in their use of many colors outside the classic blue and white. Colorful wax dying treatment is applied to all kinds of goods, from hats to bags to clothes, that fetch just 88 yuan to 299 yuan.

To really celebrate the diversity of China's minorities, check out the collection of 56 dolls, each dressed to represent a different domestic ethnic group. They go for a homogenous 98 yuan a piece.

Where: No.230 Andingmennei Dajie, Dongcheng **Open:** 9 am - 9 pm **Tel:** 8405 0355

Ethnic Treasures



Photo by Wang Yumeng

Gifts with Personal Touch



Table lamp, 360 yuan

Photo by Li Shuzhuan

By Sun Ling

There's more to the Shishahai area than water and drinking holes – these days there's also plenty of trendy shopping options, like the Gift Shop (Xiaowan yi'er), which is nestled in a great, but overlooked, location near Yindingqiao bridge.

The small store is owned by two beautiful women – one a photographer, one a designer – who use their spare time to personally craft much of the shop's stock of necklaces, bracelets, candlesticks, lamps and other items. When they can, they like to travel abroad, often bringing back fruits from their journeys to add to the store's collections. Most recently, one of the owners went to Australia, and now the store has an interesting range of items clearly from "down under."

As rain pounded the store's roof last Saturday, the two young women took shelter inside, weaving one-of-a-kind lampshades perched atop lamps priced at 300 yuan to 400 yuan. Lamps made from crystal beads tend to fetch a bit more. Because most items are one-offs, the owners suggest shoppers move fast when they see something they like, or at least make a

reservation – otherwise a chosen piece is likely to be history on a second visit.

The walls are decorated with a gallery of posters and paintings in oil paints, watercolor, pastel and pencil, most of which were created by the owners or their friends. Posters tend to be of the hipster variety, such as a picture of Bruce Lee purchased in Australia and given a local price of 300 yuan. Popular items among the *laowai* are covers of magazines from the Cultural Revolution protected for posterity in modest frames.

Every corner of the shop seems to harbor some kind of hand-crafted or international surprise. There are dolls with Indian costumes (170 yuan), oil paintings of cats from Sydney (160 yuan), models of New York fire engines (190 yuan), ashtrays from Jerusalem (65 yuan) and porcelain rabbits with beautiful long ears from the UK (70 yuan). Whether just walking through the area or coming off a lakeside meal or drinking session, there are many good reasons to switch to shopping mode and check out Gift Shop.

Where: No. 9 Yindingqiao Hutong, Xicheng **Open:** 3 pm - 10 pm **Tel:** 6618 7915

By Wang Yan

The Hack & RS store on Dongs Beidajie is a veritable warehouse of hot, cool fashion. The store is the local rep of a popular Japanese brand starting to make a splash in this country, particularly among young people and the ultra-fashion conscious.

In fact, the store is the only place to get clothes and accessories designed and made by Hack & RS. While everything comes in only two sizes, medium and large, there is a wide range of choice, from t-shirts printed with Japanese patterns or abstract pictures (150 yuan to 250 yuan) to knapsacks to manbags starting at 250 yuan.

Outside of the Hack & RS label, the store is also a haven for products from bigger name brands like Levi's or Converse. On offer are loads of t-shirts, jeans and shoes from these makes and others. "All of them are original foreign products brought back from the US or Japan by my friends," shopkeeper Zhu Xiaojing told *Beijing Today*.

Much of the stock is for the fellas, but



Photo by Wang Yumeng

Hack & RS still provides a fun range of women's accessories – necklaces, bangles, rings, earrings – with the looks and prices to fit any style or budget. That means that while a fashionable gentlemen searches the racks, his ladyfriend is sure to have something to occupy herself. If only staying on top fashion were always that easy.

Where: No. 447 Dongsibei Dajie, Dongcheng **Open:** 9:30 am - 9:30 pm **Tel:** 6871 6768

Ride the Wind

By Sabu

Why fight Beijing's mighty winds when you can just go with them – and in style. To get the most of gusts, check out the Sanshizhai Fengzheng, or Three Stones Kites, store near Di'anmen, a small business that boasts a remarkable selection of colorful, beautifully-crafted and flight-ready kites.

The owner of the store represents the third generation of the Liu family, famed kitemakers who crafted flying toys for Chinese royalty a century ago.

The elaborate kites are all designed, painted and assembled by hand by Liu and his skilled assistants and are thick with Chinese cultural tradition. Many patterns, colors and production processes have been passed down through the generations of Liu's family.

The most popular items for sale are lanky dragon kites that have awesome sculpted heads with spinning eyes and moving tongues connected to body pieces made of bamboo and feathers that can stretch from 20 to 150 meters. The prices for these eye-popping toys, as suitable for taking to the sky as hanging proudly on a wall, range from 300 yuan to 10,000 yuan for the largest, finest versions.

Other classic silk kites come shaped like oversized swallowtail butterflies (160 yuan each), swallows (800 yuan), dragonflies (260 yuan), eagles (160 yuan), goldfish, bats, owls and other birds. They range from a simple printed paper swallow kite tagged at only 20 yuan to more elaborate, colorful flying machines. Most of the handmade kites, beautiful and functional works of art, can be folded into boxes to make elegant, inspired gifts.

The store also stocks a full range of kiting accessories, such as handles, spools and string, as well as a range of other classy souvenirs with Chinese characteristics, such as Chinese knots, shuttle cocks and embroidery pieces.

Where: No. 29, Di'anmen Xidajie, Xicheng **Open:** 10 am - 10 pm **Tel:** 8404 4505



Photo by Sabu

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Mrs. Francoise Lafon, director of the Chine office of Edufrance, the French government's agency for promoting the country's higher education system, was the guest of honor in Beijing Today's "Study Abroad Salon" on Monday.

Mrs. Lafon communicated with dozens of Beijing Today readers, answering questions about higher education in her country and addressing the truthfulness of France's romantic reputation. Many salon participants wanted to know whether English speakers could study in France, and Mrs. Lafon provided clear, helpful responses.

Anyone interested in studying abroad is welcome to directly take part in our weekly "Study Abroad Salon" sessions on <http://bjtoday.ynet.com>, or forward questions to the host, Ayi, at: ayi@ynet.com.

Using English to study in France (在法国用英语授课的专业)

My major is English, so can I study in France? For example, could I enroll in a painting or design course, taught in English, in France? — JackieZhang

First, I would suggest you try courses in applied foreign languages, which offer combined studies in English, French, Chinese and economics/business.

English major students can also apply to take part in a competitive entrance examination to France's top five business schools, the CIAM exam. It takes place every year in China, in March. The closing date for registration is February. (see www.ciam.ccip.fr)

Most courses in art and design or fine arts in France are taught in French.

However, should you be interested in fashion design, there is a course leading to a BA in fashion design, taught in English, organized by Mod'Art International in Paris. (see www.mod-art.org)

The American university in Paris organizes courses in art history with a minor in fine art, taught in English as well. (see www.aup.fr)

I have been involved in HR management for six years. Can I study HR management in English in France? Should I take any language test like IELTS, and do I need to provide a savings deposit guarantee? — jaclyn_wang@sohu.com

If you want to study in an HR management course taught in English, you will most certainly have to apply to a private business school. The fees in these institutions vary from 6,500 euros to 15,000 euros.

All institutions offering courses in English require students to take a test, the IELTS or TOEFL.

The cost of living for a student in France is around 450 euros per month, accommodation included.

Exams and jobs (语言问题和工作)

I've heard it's hard to live in France if you cannot speak French. If I study in an English-language university course, can I find a job after graduation? — rose007

It is advisable to study some French if you want to further your education in France, even if you choose courses in English. You will require French for



Photo by Photocom

France: Romantic Place to Study

your every day life, to make friends, to understand and appreciate French culture better.

If you want to find a job or an internship in France, you need French as well! A lot of French university representatives have told me that it is not easy to find companies willing to take foreign students who can't speak French, even on unpaid internships.

What admission exam, like TOEFL or IELTS, do Chinese students need to take to study at universities or specialized schools in France? — dalahorse



Photo by Wang Xiaoxi

TOEFL and IELTS are the only language tests for English, while France has French language tests. One is the TEF, which is a compulsory language test for applying for student visas to enroll in courses taught in French.

The Diplome Avance de Langue Francaise is usually required before students are officially accepted in a course of higher education in France. Other institutions may require the Test de Connaissance du Francais.

Programs and scholarships (学科和奖学金)

What can international students get from a N+i program? For long degree programs in grandes écoles, can international students get

scholarships?

N+i is a good program for postgraduate engineering training. It is a two-year package with French language and culture training, one-year engineering course and three-to-six month internship with a French or international company. The degree awarded is a Master's degree.

Scholarships are mainly awarded for postgraduate courses. You can find that at: www.ambafrance-cn.org.

Other scholarships are also available directly from the French Embassy in China for doctoral and post-doctoral students.

Please recommend some of the best colleges of design, especially in the field of architecture. — zhws

There is a network of 15 schools of architecture in France that are state run and may deliver DPLG (Diplome par le gouvernement) qualification. This is the only qualification that enables architects to work officially in France. These schools also offer postgraduate courses.

The level of French required to enter these schools is very high. You have to take the DALF test at the French Embassy every year in February. The application deadline is December.

Applying to universities (学校申请)

I've heard some changes will be made to the French education system this fall, with the implementation of LMD, the name of the new system. Could you give some information about this? Will it affect Chinese students' applications to study in France? — Nellie

The LMD has no impact on foreign, non-European students' applications.

The idea is to make the French university system easier and clearer. The

same reform is presently taking place in all other European countries. So it will become easier to transfer from one European university to the other, especially through the European Credit Transfer System, which runs in all member states' universities.

So it should be a benefit rather than a hindrance.

Can you list the criteria, in general, for applying to study at university in France? — gorilla

I advise you first to look up French university web sites to find out what exact requirements are needed by individual institutions and what their deadlines are.

Apart from applications to the first year at university or to architectural schools (the unified deadline is December 30), deadlines vary tremendously.

Most institutions will require certified copies and translations of all your academic qualifications, a personal statement, letters of recommendation, a resumé and language proficiency test results. You will normally have to fill in the institution's own application form.

Visa policy (签证政策)

What are the issues on which visa officers focus when deciding to grant visas? Financial support? No immigration threat? — monkeyking

France's visa policy is to accept all genuine student visa applicants who hold authentic Chinese qualifications, have good language competence (either English or French) and have an offer for a genuine course of higher education in a recognized institution in France.

Students should also provide statements about accommodation, and a financial guarantee, of between 60,000 yuan and 70,000 yuan, is required.

(Edited by Zhang Nan)

Ask Ayi:

Q: I graduated from high school this year and am applying to the Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan and the City University of Hong Kong. I prefer the translation course at City University, but am concerned about its high tuition fees.

— Pigpolic

A: Universities in Hong Kong offer all English-spoken courses more similar to Western-style education. They have academic seminars and conferences with foreign universities, thus there are many worthwhile opportunities to exchange ideas with people of different cultural backgrounds.

On the other hand, Huazhong is advanced in the field of science.

Tuition fees are certain to be more expensive in Hong Kong, in the realm of 100,000 yuan to 150,000 yuan a year, than at Huazhong University.

Q: I am a high school student. I took TOEFL last October and got a mark of 627/5. I want to find some US universities that offer full scholarships. I rank among the 10 top students in my school and have participated in several national academic contests.

— Littlewitch

A: If you want to apply for a full scholarship for undergraduate study, it's probably best to choose one of the US's elite colleges, like Williams College, Amherst College and Swarthmore College, which offer excellent education quality and have some serious scholarship money. At the same time, these schools are quite selective and very competitive, so don't bank on getting financial aid.

(Edited by Xie Lixue)

Notice

Next Monday, *Beijing Today* will invite Ms. Jazreel Goh of the British Council Beijing Office to chat on the UK government's recent crackdown on "bogus schools".

"Bogus schools" mean illegally established institutions that have helped foreigners illegally immigrate to the UK under guise of studying or have issued false academic certificates, diplomas and degrees for profits.

Please log in to the "Study Abroad Salon" at: <http://bjtoday.ynet.com> on Monday, July 19, from 2 to 3 pm.

You can also forward questions to the host, Ayi, at: ayi@ynet.com.

通知

下周一(7月19日)下午2:00-3:00, 今日北京“留学聊天室”将邀请英国文化教育委员会Jazreel Goh女士聊一聊英国最近的“野鸡大学”事件。

英国内务部在最近的一次调查中发现, 全英有100多所非法成立和经营的非正规学校, 要么借留学之名, 卖人蛇偷渡之实; 要么以收费为目的, 大肆滥发假文凭。

欲知更多详情, 请届时锁定今日北京之留学聊天室:

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By Joel Kirkhart

Crawfish, crayfish, crawdads, mudbugs, yabbies, langoustine – there are all sorts of names for these little critters, but perhaps the clearest and most to the point is the Chinese: *xiaolongxia*, which literally translates to “little lobsters”.

Beijing has a long-running love affair with crawfish, probably most closely associated with the spicy, oily delicacies served along Ghost Street, or Dongzhimennei.

That street's famed *mala longxia* – spicy and numbing crayfish stir-fried in loads of oil, chili peppers and Sichuan peppercorns – are certainly delicious, but to limit one's consumption to Ghost Street's *maxiao* would be to miss out on a world of other possibilities.

A very viable crawfish alternative to Dongzhimennei is Xinzhong Jie, just east of the Asia Hotel, where a strip of humble restaurants do rousing business serving maxiao, Xinjiang food and much more at simple outdoor tables.



Maxiao at Honglajiao Jiujiu come with and without their heads.

One of the street's stalwarts is the Honglajiao Jiujiu restaurant (tel: 6552 8522), where the mala longxia are beheaded before cooking to they can absorb more sauce. That method leads to some tasty crawdads, but not ones truly heads and claws above the competition.

Round off a crawfish fest with an order of boiled *maodou* (edemame beans), Beijing-style *madoufu* (a funky fermented bean spread) to be spread on crisp slices of fried *mantou* (steamed bread) and a few orders of chicken wings, spiced and grilled to perfection and served on skewers. Even with copious beer flow, such a spread is unlikely to run more than 40 yuan per person.

A few other local restaurants offer crawfish cooked in decidedly different ways, but the best way to break the maxiao routine is to cook 'em up at home – at the very least, it normally works out a lot cheaper. Cooking crawfish is not too difficult, but can be somewhat time-consuming because the bottom-feeding critters need to be thoroughly cleaned, inside and out.

The classic method for getting crawfish to expel their inner mud, a process called purging, is to put them into salted water. However, salting is liable to kill some of the freshwater creatures, and dead ones simply don't taste very good when boiled. Therefore, use moderation when adding salt and only keep crawfish in briny water for around five minutes before draining and rinsing them with successive washes of fresh water until the water stays clear.

While most restaurants forgo the pain-staking step of de-veining, it's always a good idea to remove a crawfish's alimentary canal, the dark strip containing waste that runs down the top of the tail, before eating. Most of the time, it's easier done after cooking and will just lift out with a bit of flesh, but careful cooks insist on taking out the crud before boiling.

In the US, crawfish are closely associated with the Cajuns, French-Creole speaking residents of the state of Louisiana who breed and cook tremendous amounts of “mudbugs” (as xiaolongxia are called in the American South). The classic way to prepare crawfish Cajun-style is to boil them in a deep pot with a heady mix of spices along with vegetables and even sausage, and then dump the whole lot onto a table for eating by hand. A crawfish boil is not too hard to put together and a sure recipe for a fun, hands-on feast with friends. Just remember to provide plenty of beer.



Better than Ghost Street? Diners flock around the clock to Xinzhong Jie, an outdoor mecca of maxiao and more.

Photos by Li Shuzhuan

Maxiao and More



Crawfish boiled Cajun-style have all the spice of maxiao with much less grease.

Recipe: Crawfish etouffee

This rich dish is a Cajun crawfish classic. It's pretty easy to make because it calls for tails only, which can often be purchased pre-cleaned, even cooked and frozen, meaning they just need a quick rinse before going into the pan. 1 1/2 cups butter
1/2 cup flour
2 small onions, diced
1/2 cup diced bell pepper
3/4 cup diced celery
1/4 cup chopped green onions bottoms
2 tablespoons paprika
1 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1 teaspoon black pepper
3/4 teaspoon garlic
3 tablespoons chicken bouillon
1 liter water
1 kilogram crawfish tails
1/2 cup chopped green onion tops
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

Combine 1/2 cup butter and 1/2 cup flour in a small saucepan. Cook over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, for three minutes until flour turns golden colored. In another saucepan, add 1/2 butter, onion, pepper, celery and green onion bottoms; cook over medium heat, stirring, for eight minutes. Add paprika, peppers, garlic, and chicken bouillon. Cook two more minutes. Add water, bring to boil and simmer five minutes. Add cooked butter/flour mixture (roux), stirring briskly with wire whisk to combine thoroughly. Reduce heat to medium, boil three more minutes. Add crawfish, onion tops, parsley and remaining butter. Cook over low heat until tails heated through (or done, if using raw tails). Serve hot, with side of rice. Makes six servings.

Recipe: Cajun crawfish boil

The first step to putting together an authentic boil is to assemble a spice packet. 4 tablespoons yellow mustard seeds
3 tablespoons coriander seeds
2 tablespoons whole allspice

2 tablespoons dill seeds
1 teaspoon whole cloves
1 tablespoon crushed red pepper
8 bay leaves
Salt and cayenne pepper (or liquid hot sauce) to taste

Combine dry ingredients in a bowl, then add hot sauce (if used). Put into cheesecloth, or even a coffee filter, and close securely with string. Part two is to spice the broth and then cook the crawfish. Feel free to add other ingredients, like raw corn, little potatoes, whole mushrooms, small onions and even sausage, all of which can both add to the broth and absorb its flavor during cooking. Fill a very large pot halfway with water and bring to boil. Once boiling, add the seasoning bag, along with 10 bay leaves, 10 cloves of peeled, smashed garlic, several lemons, washed and sliced in half, and plenty of salt; boil several minutes until liquid tinted and seasoned. First add vegetables, etc. and cook for 10 minutes. Remove vegetables when done, drain. Then add crawfish and cook until done, evident when they turn bright red and start floating, about 10 minutes. Once crawfish are cooked, allow them to soak in boiling water for 10



to 30 minutes to absorb more flavor. Then strain and serve with vegetables in a massive heap on a table covered with newspaper or other disposable covering. Wait for things to cool down a bit, and dig in!

Crawfish etouffee: rich, warming and easy

By Sarah Bai

Let's hope that word of mouth is really powerful, because it is about the only way the worthy Kuxia Yizu restaurant off the East Third Ring Road is going to stay open longer than half a year. The little joint has lots going for it – fun, spicy food, relatively reasonable prices, stylish decor and plenty of spunk – but it is tucked in a corner of a gated residential compound, meaning the only people that will find it are either neighbors or those who specifically seek it out.

The restaurant's food, probably best categorized as Hunan-style, stands out thanks to a focus on shrimp. The handwritten menu contains all kinds of selections that end with -xia, ranging widely in flavor, ingredients and cooking method.

One house special is the lyricaly-named *hongdengji*, which translates to “red lantern” and is also the name of a classic Beijing Opera. The dish is served as a mound of plump, shelled shrimp surrounded by bright red pickled chilies.

Shrimp-tastic



Xunqinji, spicy crawfish tails and claws (38 yuan)

Much smaller shellfish are the stars of *xiangwei chao hexia*, in which tiny “river shrimp” are stir-fried whole with lots of onion and chilies. The shrimp come out tender, naturally sweet and not too spicy, their natural flavor binding the other flavors together.

In keeping with the *xia* theme, there are also a few *xiaolongxia*, or crawfish selections. The *xunqinji* is a big plate of crawfish tails and claws cooked in loads of dried chilies like the Sichuan standard *laziji* (spicy chicken).

Dining Out

Flavors of Pakistan at Garden Cafe

All through August, the Garden Cafe at the Presidential Plaza State Guest House will get a dose of Pakistani flavor. Chef Aziz Artnad from Islamabad will prepare authentic fare with a succulently fragrant melange of herbs and spices. To sweeten things up, enjoy a bumper mango crop through a wide range of mango-based juice drinks.

Where: Guobin Jiudian, No.9 Fuchengmenwai Road, Xicheng
Tel: 6800 5588

Belgium Nights

Every Thursday from 6 pm on, indulge in a Belgian dinner buffet prepared by Executive Chef Wouter Liekens starring such dishes as *stoemp*, steak tartare, gratineed Belgian endive and *hutsepot*, a Belgian stew.

Where: Great Wall Sheraton Hotel, 10 North Dongsanhuan Road, Chaoyang
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Kitchen Expert of the month

Senior sous chef Rock Wang, who trained in Hong Kong and Switzerland, will

The crawfish are tasty and plenty spicy, but heavy on oil and certainly a lot of work for the reward. More familiar, despite its strange name, is the *yuwang chengshi*, or “sex in the city”, basically a take on *mala longxia*.

The menu also includes plenty of meat and veggie options, such as the excellent *nonjia chaosharou*, in which strips of pork are stir-fried with a huge heap of spring onion, chili peppers and more for a satisfying, complex dish.

A bit less successful is the *paojia chao baicai*, a rather boring plate of cabbage cooked with pickled chilies. When it comes to veggies, a better choice is the house special *bianjiang huanggua*, a well-done version of the familiar cold dish of cucumbers with chili and garlic in a soy-vinegar sauce.

Where: inside Minhang Dapiao, 100 meters south of Changhongqiao on east side, across from TGI Fridays, East Third Ring Road, Chaoyang **Open:** 11 am - 2 am **Tel:** 6582-7696 **Average cost:** 60 yuan per person



be cooking up some of his specialties, such as goose liver, sliced veal “zurichoise” and grilled lobster tail.

Where: Swissotel, Dongsu Shitao, Dongcheng
Tel: 6553 2288

Summer Fruit Cooler

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Where: Garden Terrace, Traders Hotel
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Pei Qi, 27, male, graduated from Curtin University of Technology in Australia, holding master degree of International Business, would like to be a company or tourist guide for locals or foreigners. Contact: peiqi1976@hotmail.com or 8195 7651

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Shen, 29, a marketing professional, wants to find a native English speaker as her personal English teacher. Contact: shenjie@mail.cmec.com

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Exhibitions

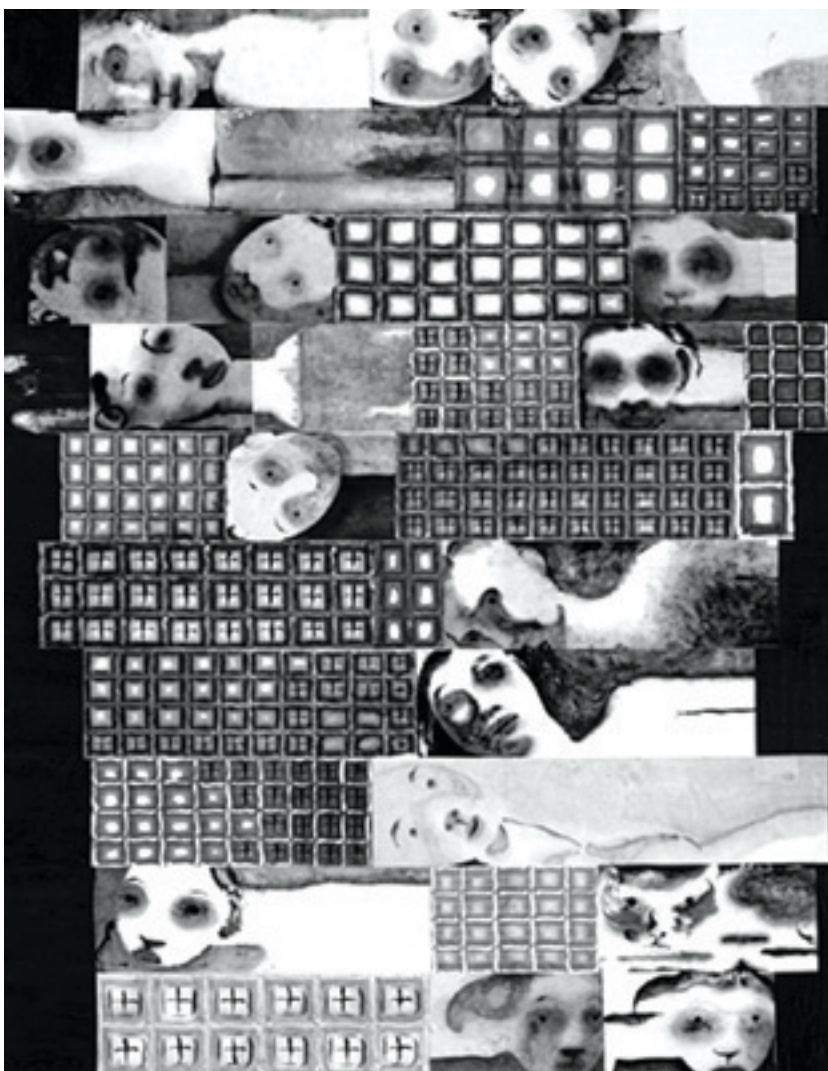
Pass Through Time and Space Soldiers

An exhibition of Liu Fenghua's oil paintings.

Where: Qin Gallery Huaweili Enjoy Paradise (North of Beijing Curio City) Chaoyang District
When: 9:30-7, July 16-31
Admission: free **Tel:** 8779 0461



Works by Wang Jinsong and Cai Guangbin



Wang Jinsong from Shanxi, Cai Guangbin from Heilongjiang – an exhibition of their artworks.

Where: LAGallery Beijing, Beijing Lao Dong Renmin Wenhua Gong East of Tian An Men
When: July 16 - August 10 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6526 5045

Activities

YPHH Happy Hour at Red Yard

The next YPHH Happy Hour is at Red Yard, one of Beijing's newest bars, set in a traditional courtyard house. As usual, early arrivals receive a free beer and Red Yard will provide some free snacks. Other food will be available from the courtyard BBQ.

Where: 14 Xiyangwei Hutong, Dongcheng **When:** 6:30 pm, July 21 **Tel:** 6403 1584
Canal Boat to the Summer Palace

Ride a dragon boat with the Chinese Culture Club along the route Empress Dowager Cixi used to take to the Summer Palace, passing through Beijing Zoo, Purple Bamboo Garden and other historical sights. Please note that the boat cannot enter the Summer Palace.

Meet: in front of the KFC on the east side of the Beijing Exhibition Center (east of Beijing Zoo). **When:** 2 pm, July 17 **Admission:** 70 yuan (includes temple and museum tickets) **Tel:** 8462 2081, please register by phone, then show up and pay on arrival.



Walk and Talk Ming Qing Furniture

Hu Desheng, a Palace Museum researcher, will give a lecture on classification and character of Ming and Qing furniture, give tips on identifying pieces from the period,

and present slides and wooden specimens.

Where: Luo Yang Room, Level 2, Kempinski Hotel **When:** 2-5 pm, July 20 **Admission:** 180 yuan, coffee and English translation included

Beijing Hikers

The walk heads up a huge quarry, then along a remote country lane into a small and narrow valley. Walking up the valley we will reach a pass and get on the ridge trail that descends to a small reservoir at the bottom of the valley on the other side, passing a few of the Ming Tombs in the area.

This walk has two options – after the second tomb, those who want to get more exercise can carry on and be picked up further down the trail. The others can pick up the bus and be driven to the end of the longer trail.

Where: Changping County, north of Beijing **When:** Meet at 8 at the Lido outside Starbucks **Cost:** 150 yuan, 100 yuan per child under 12 **Tel:** 13910025516

2004 Beijing International Dog Show

At the 2004 Beijing International Dog Show, not only can you enjoy professional dog performances from the Beijing Kennel Club, you can also bring your lovely pet dogs along to participate in our Happy Dog Trail Competition. Whatever skills or training your dog has, a beneficial and fun event is guaranteed.

Where: Chateau Regalia Beijing, Shoudu Jichang Lu Wenyu riverside, Shunyi **When:** 2pm – 6 pm (registration at 2 pm) **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6456 8800

Performance

100 Years of Disney Magic

This timeless Disney classic

graces the ice in an elaborate spectacle with colorful sets, lavish costumes, soaring musical numbers, and champion skaters.

Your entire family will enjoy this enchanting production starring Belle, Gaston, Lumiere, Cogsworth, Mrs. Potts, Chip, and a whole cast of enchanted characters including the Beast himself. So come, be our guest, and experience the beauty of Disney On Ice.

Where: Capital Gymnasium, 54 Baishiqiaolu, Xicheng **When:** 7:30 pm, July 20-25 **Admission:** 80-500 yuan **Tel:** 8528 2222

A special English performance will be held at 2:30 pm, July 23. Very simple, very clear, and very standard English, it's a good chance to experience the original Disney classical performance.

Whitney Houston in Concert

Whitney Houston, 40, is known in Asia and most of the known universe for her rendition of *I Will Always Love You*, from the 1992 movie *The Bodyguard*.

The Grammy Award winner entered a drug rehabilitation center in March, received a lifetime achievement award at the Women's World Awards in Germany in June, and performs solo in Beijing next Sunday.

Where: Olympic Sports Centre **When:** 7:30 pm, July 25 **Admission:** 180-1,600 yuan **Tel:** 8447 7308

Service



Summer Family Package

Grand Hyatt Beijing's family package includes two-bedroom accommodation and daily complimentary breakfast for two adults and two children under 16 years old. Discounted airport transfer and complimentary access to Club Oasis, a fitness center with a resort-style swimming pool. Price: 1,580 yuan per night (minimum stay three nights).

Where: Grand Hyatt Beijing, Chang'an Ave (Oriental Plaza) **When:** until August 31, 2004 **Tel:** 8518 1234



Reward for function room use

China World Hotel is offering rewards for holding events in the function rooms on Level 1 and the Arcade Level. Three percent of your total room rental as well as food and beverage expenditure (excluding 15 percent surcharge) on events held at the function rooms will be converted to points. One point is equivalent to 1 yuan. These points can be redeemed to offset expenses accrued at future events held at China World Hotel Arcade Level function rooms in 2004.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue **When:** until December 31 **Tel:** 6505 2266 ext. 6260

Hotel Summer Promotion

Accor Group is offer a special summer promotion in China featuring three main destination campaigns, Shanghai and Beyond, Beijing and Hainan and Central China. For each destination, the price range of Accor hotels will fall between US \$33 and \$117. Guests can enjoy a 10 percent discount if they pay with VISA. Available until August 31. **Tel:** 800 610 0171

Movies

Suzhou River

Directed by Luo Ye, starring Zhou Xun, Jia Hong Shen, Hua Zhongkai. Shanghai's Suzhou River is a reservoir of filth, chaos and poverty, but also a meeting place for memories and secrets. Mardar, a motorcycle courier, is asked by a shady alcohol smuggler to deliver his sixteen-year-old daughter; Moudan, to her aunt. Mardar and Moudan grow fond of each other. But their tender happiness is disrupted when Moudan thinks that Mardar has kidnapped her for a ransom and jumps off a bridge into the Suzhou River. Years later, he encounters a dancer called Meimei, who bears an uncanny resemblance to Moudan.

Where: Cherry Lane Movie Theater, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Chaoyang **When:** 8 pm, July 17 **Admission:** 50 yuan **Tel:** 13501251303

El Mariachi

Written, directed, filmed and edited by Robert Rodriguez, a 23 year old from Austin, Texas. Shot in a Mexican border town, it tells the story of a young mariachi, or rambling guitar player, who arrives one day looking for work. He is dressed in black and carries a guitar case, and a killer arrives in the same town on the same day, dressed the same way. All the mariachi (Carlos Gallardo) wants to do is sing and play his guitar, but soon he's thrust into the middle of someone else's blood feud.

Where: Mexico Embassy, 5 Sanlitun Dongjie **When:** 7:30 pm, July 21 **Admission:** free **Tel:** 6532 2244



TV and Radio Highlights

HBO

16 Friday

John Q 11:30 pm

17 Saturday

Mr. Deeds 9 pm

18 Sunday

Catch Me If You Can 7:30 pm

19 Monday

Encrypt 9 pm

20 Tuesday

Fancy Dancing 12:45 am

21 Wednesday

Cabin Pressure 11:10 pm

22 Thursday

Live From Baghdad 12:25 pm

CCTV-9

Monday – Friday

Around China 6:30 am

Cultural Express 8:30 am

Nature and Science /

Chinese Civilization 11:30 am

Cultural Express 2:30 pm

Nature and Science /

Chinese Civilization 5:30 pm

Dialogue 7:30 pm

News Updates /

Asia Today 8 pm

Sports Scene 11:15 pm

Saturday

Travelogue 9:30 am

Center Stage 11:30 am

Sunday

Sports Weekend 10 am

Documentary 10:30 am

This Week 12:30 am

China Radio International 91.5 FM

Monday – Friday

Easy FM Afternoon 2-7 pm

Fun in Beijing 5-5:30 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Saturday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Euro Hit 40 12:05-1 pm

Music Sans Frontiers 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

Sunday

Music Memories 8:05-11 am

Jazz Beat 6:05-8 pm

Joy FM 9:05-11 pm

We are glad to receive your feedback. We will print employment, language exchange and accommodation info for individuals. Feel free to email us at bjtodayinfo@ynet.com or call 6590 2518
By Zhang Jianzhong

Beijing Seat of Imperial Power

Beijing municipality boasts six world heritage sites. With the exception of the Zhoukoudian Peking Man Site, they are all imperial sites of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

Temple of Heaven – Round heaven and square earth

The Temple of Heaven, in southeast Beijing, was completed in 1420. This is where the Ming and Qing emperors prayed and offered sacrifices to heaven for



good harvests.

The overall layout and individual design is symbolic of the ancient belief that heaven is round and the earth, square. The southern part of the temple is square, while the northern part, which is higher than the southern part, is semi-circular. The three major structures all have round floors and are topped with deep-blue tiles,

representing the sky.

Summer Palace – Masterpiece of oriental landscape art

Built in 1750, the Summer Palace harmoniously integrates the natural landscape with pavilions, halls, palaces, temples and bridges.

Covering 293 hectares, the main features are Longevity Hill in the north and Kunming Lake in the south. Along the northern bank of the lake runs the 728-meter Long Corridor, decorated with over 8,000 paintings of landscape and historical scenes.

The top of Longevity Hill commands a spectacular view of the buildings of various shapes and sizes below, with



their golden roofs glittering under the sun, the vast Kunming Lake dotted with rowing boats, and the famous 17-arch bridge in the distance, connecting the lake shore with Nanhu Island.

Daxilou in the Garden of Moral Harmony, where Empress Dowager Cixi came to watch opera is a must-see, as is the Marble Boat. The 300-meter Suzhou Street, lined with more than 60

shops and decorated with ceremonial arches and gateways, lends a folksy flavor to the imperial garden.

And of course ...

The Forbidden City: Home to 24 emperors, as well as countless concubines and eunuchs, it is the world's largest palatial complex.

The Great Wall: Known as the "eighth wonder in the world," this marvel of defensive architecture protected the empire for centuries.

The Thirteen Ming Tombs: Outstanding examples of the geomantic principles, they are the final resting place of the Ming emperors and their concubines.

East China Balancing Development and Heritage Protection

There are eight world heritage sites in East China. These have long been popular tour destinations, a fact that means there are many options in terms of transportation and accommodation, but also highlights the fragility of the balance between development and heritage protection.



Koguryo Kingdom – Pyramid in the east

The newly inscribed Koguryo Kingdom site is located in Ji'an, in north-east China's Jilin Province. The base of a regime established by northern ethnic groups some 2,000 years ago, it played a key role in the development of northeast Asian cultures. The ancient cities of Guonei and Wandu are masterpieces of construction and were a major influence on northeast Asian architecture.

The General's Tomb, known as the "pyramid in the east," and the large quantities of exquisite murals are the epitome of Koguryo's high architectural and artistic achievements.

Ancient Villages of Southern Anhui – A museum of ancient residences

Ancient villages shaded on the slopes of the green hills in southern Anhui retain intact the Ming and Qing architectural styles in which they were built. Xidi and Hongcun villages were inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1999.

Xidi boasts of more than 120 ancient houses, with picturesque streets and a stream running by. Each house has white walls with elaborately shaped eaves and courtyards paved with green flagstones or colorful pebbles. Even the smallest details of domestic decorations, like potted plants and wood carvings are exquisitely wrought.

Not far from Xidi, Hongcun is famous for its enchanting mountains and waters. With the luxuriant beauty of ancient trees surrounding the houses, it is known as a "village in a traditional Chinese painting."

Other recommendations:

Jiangsu: **Suzhou** is renowned in China as the "city of gardens," and Suzhou Classical Gardens top all gardens worldwide in number and artistry.

Shandong: **Mount Tai** and **Confucius Sites** in Qufu. Mount Tai boasts numerous ancient pines and cypresses, towering precipices and ever-changing seas of clouds, while its 6,660 steps from foot to summit attract a constant stream of hikers. The Confucius sites, with 300 buildings, were home to Chinese sage Confucius.

Anhui: **Huang Shan (Yellow Mountain)** is a Taoist site renowned for the four wonders: spectacular rocks, odd-shaped pines, hot springs and sea of clouds.

Jiangxi: **Lu Shan** has breathtaking scenery – steep peaks and precipices, grotesque rocks, changeable clouds and fogs, silver springs and flying waterfalls.

Fujian: **Wuyi Shan** is a typical *daxia* land formation. The stone slabs and boat-shaped rocks over deep gullies are a natural wonder.

World Heritage Travel Highlights

By Peng Juan

The inclusion last week of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom Site on the World Heritage List brings China's total number of world heritage properties to 30. While it would take a considerable amount of dedication, not to mention time, to visit all 30, organizing an itinerary around a few of these sites is an ideal way of seeing some of the best China has to offer.



The ancient village of Hongcun, Anhui Province.

Photos by Imaginechina

Central China Harmony Between Man and Nature

The six world heritage sites in Central China are noteworthy for the harmony created between nature and human culture, reaching the pinnacle in architecture and art of China. The Yungang Grottoes in Shanxi Province and Longmen Grottoes in Henan in particular embody the peak of development of Chinese grotto art.



Pingyao – Birthplace of Chinese banks

Pingyao is a beautifully preserved Ming and Qing dynasty town. It was listed as a world cultural heritage site in 1997. In 1824, the Rishengchang Piaohao, the first banking firm in China, was established on what had been the site of the Xiyucheng Pigment Shop on Xi Dajie. Later, more than 20 such banks opened in Pingyao, making the town the financial center of China in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Pingyao is known for three historical

treasures: the ancient city wall, Zhen-guo Temple and Shuanglin Temple. The 6-kilometer wall features 3,000 embrasures and 72 small watchtowers. The Hall of Ten Thousand Buddhas in Zhen-guo Temple is the third-oldest existing wooden building in China. Shuanglin Temple is known as the Treasure House of Painted Sculptures.

Wulingyuan – A world outside the world

Covering over 264 square kilometers in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province, the landscape of Wulingyuan is renowned for five wonders: spectacular peaks, unique rocks, secluded valleys, serene waters and deep karst caves, of which the most peculiar scene is the 3,000 bizarre quartz sandstone peaks, some 40 karst caves, and two large natural bridges.

Dubbed "a world outside the world," Wulingyuan is the ideal place to get away from everything. It encompasses three sections: Zhangjiajie National Forest Reserve, the Suoxi Brook area and the Mount Tianzi area.

Mount Tianzi, in the north, is the ideal place to see phantasmagoric cloud and mist, especially in summer.

There are two spectacular natural bridges: Bridge of the Immortals – 26 meters long and less than 2 meters wide stands 100 meters above the gorge, and the Bridge Across the Sky – 40 meters long and 10 meters wide, is at 357 meters above the valley floor, the highest natural bridge in



the world. The Yellow Dragon Cave is a typical karst formation and one of the 10 largest caves in China.

Other recommendations:

Hebei: **Chengde Summer Resort** blends grand palaces and exquisite temples with peculiarly formed mountains, vast grassland, exquisite pavilions and tranquil waters.

Shanxi: **Yungang Grottoes** houses some 1,000 niches with around 51,000 statues – a treasure trove of grotto art that combines traditional Chinese art forms with foreign influence, particularly Greek and Indian.

Henan: **Longmen Grottoes** have 2,345 caves and niches, housing over 100,000 Buddhist statues, 2,840 inscribed stone tablets and over 60 stone stupas.

Hubei: **Wudang Shan** is a Taoist sacred mountain. Wudang wushu, noted for its exercise of the internal organs and breathing techniques, developed here along with Wudang Taoism.

West China Mystical and Rarely Seen Treasures

Of China's 30 world heritage sites, 10 are in the vast western region. In contrast to those in the east, which are invariably crowded with tourists, many of these sites are rarely visited, such as the Dazu Rock Carvings and the Three Parallel Rivers Area.



Dazu Rock Carvings – Treasure house of ancient grottoes

The Dazu Rock Carvings are much younger than those at the better-known Dunhuang, Yungang and Longmen. They lie quietly in the little town of Dazu in the mountainous of Chongqing, but are no less important than their "forebears" as far as aesthetic qualities and diversity of subject matter are concerned.

The site includes the cliff-side carvings at Beishan, Baodingshan, Nanshan, Shizhuanshan and Shimenshan, with more than 50,000 Buddhist, Taoist and Confucian rock carvings, representing the interplay among different religions in China – a unique feature setting it apart from the other three sites.

Three Parallel Rivers

The Jinsha, Nujiang and Lancang rivers flow down adjacent valleys, north to south, for some 170 kilometers from the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, forming a unique scene of rivers flowing in parallel. There is an average distance of 66 kilometers between the Jinsha, which later becomes the Yangtze, and the Lancang, which a little further south becomes the Mekong, while the Lancang and Nujiang rivers come within 19 kilometers of one another.

Within this region are 118 snow-capped mountains over 5,000 meters high. The Mingyongqia glacier descends 6,000 meters from Kawagebo peak to the Nujiang River valley.

Tour destinations include Shangri-la, the ancient town of Lijiang, the glaciers of Meilishan, and Lugu Lake. First among China's 17 key bio-diversity areas, the site is also a precious gene bank of world importance. The golden monkey is the most representative species in the area.

Other recommendations:

Dunhuang Mogao Caves in Gansu are one of the world's most important treasure houses of Buddhist art.

The **Qinshihuang Mausoleum and Terracotta Warriors** at Xi'an, Shaanxi, is the world's largest imperial mausoleum. It contains 8,000 life-size terracotta warriors, bronze chariots and horses and hundreds of bronze weapons.

Sichuan boasts four listed sites. The deep and serene **Mount Qingcheng**; the **Immortal Pool in Jiuzhaigou Valley** features dozens of colorful pools laid out in the form of terrace; **Huanglong** is famed for its canyons, snow-capped mountains, deep forests, colored ponds and hot springs; and **Mount Emei** is famous for its "four wonders" – sunrise seen from Golden summit, Buddhist aureole, sea of clouds and divine light.

Lijiang, Yunnan, is an ancient town boasting a harmony of nature and culture.

The **Potala Palace** in Lhasa is known as the Pearl on the Roof of the World, composed of magnificent and integrated palaces of typical Tibetan architectural style.

